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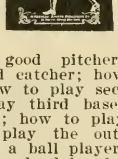
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No. 1—Spalding's Official Base Ball Guide.



The leading Base Ball annual of the country, and the official authority of the game. Edited by Henry Chadwick, the "Father of Base Ball." Contains the official playing rules, with an explanatory index of the rules compiled by Mr. A. G. Spalding; pictures of all the teams in the National, American and minor leagues; official averages; reviews of the season in all the professional organizations; college Base Ball, and a great deal of interesting information. Price 10 cents.

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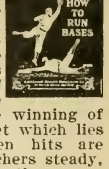


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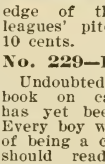
The most important part of ball playing nowadays, outside of pitching, is batting. The team that can bat and has some good pitchers can win base ball games; therefore, every boy and young man who has, of course, already learned to catch, should turn his attention to this department of the game, and there is no better way of becoming proficient than by reading this book and then constantly practising the little tricks explained. Price 10 cts.

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The importance of base running as a scientific feature of the national game is becoming more and more recognized each year. Besides being spectacular, feats of base stealing nearly always figure in the winning of a game. Many a close contest is decided on the winning of that little strip of 90 feet which lies between cushions. When hits are few and the enemy's pitchers steady, it becomes incumbent on the opposing team to get around the bases in some manner. Effective stealing not only increases the effectiveness of the team by advancing its runners without wasting hits, but it serves to materially disconcert the enemy and frequently has caused an entire opposing club to temporarily lose its poise and throw away the game. This book gives clear and concise directions for excelling as a base runner; tells when to run and when not to do so; how and when to slide; team work on the bases; in fact, every point of the game is thoroughly explained. Illustrated with pictures of leading players. Price 10 cents.

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A new, up-to-date book. The object of this book is to aid the beginners who aspire to become clever twirlers, and its contents are the practical teaching of men who have reached the top as pitchers, and who know how to impart a knowledge of their art. All the big leagues' pitchers are shown. Price 10 cents.

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Undoubtedly the best book on catching that has yet been published. Every boy who has hopes of being a clever catcher should read how well-known players cover their position. Among the more noted ones who describe their methods of play in this book are Lou Criger of the Boston Americans and Johnnie Kling of the Chicago Nationals. The numerous pictures comprise all the noted catchers in the big leagues. Price 10 cents.

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No other position in a ball team has shown such a change for the better in recent years as first base. Modifications in line with the betterment of the sport in every department have been made at intervals, but in no other department have they been so radical. No boy who plays the initial sack can afford to overlook the points and hints contained in this book. Entirely new and up to date. Illustrated with full-page pictures of all the prominent first basemen. Price 10 cents.

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There are so few men who can cover second base to perfection that their names can easily be called off by anyone who follows the game of base ball. Team owners who possess such players would not part with them for thousands of dollars. These men have been interviewed and their ideas incorporated in this book for the especial benefit of boys who want to know the fine points of play at this point of the diamond. Illustrated with full-page pictures. Price 10 cents.

No. 227—How to Play Third Base.



Third base is, in some respects, the most important of the infield. No major league team has ever won a pennant without a great third baseman. Collins of the Boston Americans and Leach of Pittsburg are two of the greatest third basemen the game has ever seen, and their teams owe much of the credit for pennants they have won to them. These men in this book describe just how they play the position. Everything a player should know is clearly set forth and any boy will surely increase his chances of success by a careful reading of this book. Illustrated. Price 10 cents.

No. 228—How to Play Shortstop.



Shortstop is one of the hardest positions on the infield to fill, and quick thought and quick action are necessary for a player who expects to make good as a shortstop. The views of every well-known player who covers this position have been sought in compiling this book, Illustrated. Price 10 cents.

No. 224—How to Play the Outfield.



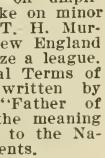
Compiled especially for the young player who would become an expert. The best book on playing the outfield that has ever been published. There are just as many tricks to be learned, before a player can be a competent fielder, as there are in any other position on a nine, and this book explains them all. Price 10 cents.

No. 231—How to Coach; How to Captain a Team; How to Manage a Team; How to Umpire; How to Organize a League; Technical Terms of Base Ball.



A useful guide to all who are interested in the above subjects. Jimmy Collins writes on coaching; M. J. Kelly on captaining; Al Buckenberger on managing; Frank Dwyer of the American League staff on umpiring; Fred Lake on minor leagues, and the editor, T. H. Murnane, President of the New England League, on how to organize a league. The chapters on Technical Terms of Base Ball have been written by Henry Chadwick, the "Father of Base Ball," and define the meaning of all the terms peculiar to the National Game. Price 10 cents.

No. 219—Ready Reckoner of Base Ball Percentages.



To supply a demand for a book which would show the percentage of clubs without recourse to the arduous work of figuring, the publishers have had these tables compiled by an expert. Price 10 cents.

BASE BALL AUXILIARIES.

No. 291—Minor League Base Ball Guide.



The minors' own guide. Contains pictures of leading teams, schedules, report of annual meeting National Association of Professional Base Ball Leagues, special articles and official rules. Edited by President T. H. Murnane, of the New England League. Price 10 cents. (Ready May 1.)

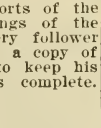
No. 293—Official Handbook of the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs.



Contains the Constitution, By-Laws, Official Rules, Averages, and schedule of the National League for the current year, together with list of club officers and reports of the annual meetings of the League. Every follower of the game should have a copy of this book if he wants to keep his file of Base Ball books complete. Price 10 cents.

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Edited by Walter Camp. The contents embrace everything that a beginner wants to know and many points that an expert will be glad to learn. The pictures are made from snapshots of leading teams and players in action, with comments by Walter Camp. Price 10 cents.

No. 2A—Spalding's Official Association Soccer Foot Ball Guide.



A complete and up-to-date guide to the "Soccer" game in the United States, containing instructions for playing the game, official rules, and interesting news from all parts of the country. Illustrated. Price 10 cents.

No. 286—How to Play Soccer.



Owing to the great interest shown in "Soccer" foot ball in America, the publishers have had a book compiled in England, the home of the sport, telling how each position should be played, written by the best player in England in his respective position, and illustrated with full-page photographs of players in action. As a text-book of the game this work is invaluable, and no "Soccer" player can afford to be without it. Price 10 cents.

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Edited by Frank D. Woodworth, Secretary-Treasurer Ontario Rugby Foot Ball Union. The official book of the game in Canada. Price 10 cents.

No. 294—Official Intercollegiate Association Soccer Foot Ball Guide.



Contains the constitution and by-laws of the Association, pictures of the teams, and official playing rules. Price 10 cents.

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Edited by Jerome Flannery. The most complete year book of the game that has ever been published in America. Reports of special matches, official rules and pictures of all the leading teams. Price 10 cents.

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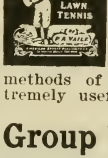
Edited by H. P. Burchell, of the New York Times. Contents include a report of every important tournament played in 1906, embracing the National Championship, sectional and State tournaments; invitation and open tournaments; intercollegiate and interscholastic championships; women's national championships; foreign championships; indoor championships; official ranking for each year from 1885 to 1906; laws of lawn tennis; instructions for handicapping; decisions on doubtful points; regulations for the management of tournaments; directory of clubs; directions for laying out and keeping a court; tournament notes. Illustrated with pictures of leading players. Price 10 cents.

No. 157—How to Play Lawn Tennis.



A complete description of lawn tennis; a lesson for beginners and directions telling how to make the most important strokes. Illustrated. Price 10 cents.

No. 279—Strokes and Science of Lawn Tennis.



By P. A. Vaile, a leading authority on the game in Great Britain. Every stroke in the game is accurately illustrated and analyzed by the author. As a means of affording a comparison between the American and the English methods of play, this book is extremely useful. Price 10 cents.

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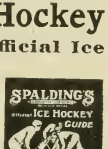
No. 276—How to Play Golf.



By James Braid, the English Open Champion of 1906. A glance at the chapter headings will give an idea of the variety and value of the contents: Beginners' wrong ideas; method of tuition; choosing the clubs; how to grip the club; stance and address in driving; the upward swing in driving, etc.; Numerous full-page pictures of Champion Braid in action add to the book's attractiveness. Price 10 cts.

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Containing the rules for each game. Illustrated. Price 10 cents.

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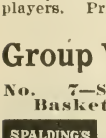
No. 256—Official Handbook of the Ontario Hockey Association.



Edited by W. A. Hewitt, of Toronto. Contains the official rules of the Association, constitution, rules of competition, list of officers, and pictures of leading players. Price 10 cents.

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Edited by George T. Hepbron. Contains the revised official rules, decisions on disputed points, records of prominent teams, reports on the game from various parts of the country, and pictures of hundreds of players. Price 10 cents.

No. 193—How to Play Basket Ball.



By G. T. Hepbron, editor of the Official Basket Ball Guide. Contains full instructions for players, both for the expert and the novice, duties of officials, and specially posed full-page pictures showing the correct and incorrect methods of playing. The demand for a book of this character is fully satisfied in this publication, as many points are included which could not be incorporated in the annual publication of the Basket Ball Guide for want of room. Price 10 cents.

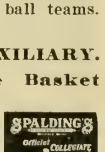
No. 260—Official Basket Ball Guide for Women.



Edited by Miss Senda Berenson, of Smith College. Contains the official playing rules of the game and special articles on the following subjects: Games for women, by E. Hitchcock, Director of Physical Training, and Dean of College, Amherst College; condition of women's basket ball in the Middle West, by W. P. Bowen, Michigan State Normal College; psychological effects of basket ball for women, by Dr. L. H. Gulick; physiological effects of basket ball, by Theodore Hough, Ph. D.; significance of basket ball for women, by Senda Berenson; relative merit of the Y. M. C. A. rules and women's rules, by Augusta Lane Patrick; A Plea for Basket Ball, by Julie Ellsbee Sullivan, Teachers' College, New York; diagram of field. Illustrated with many pictures of basket ball teams. Price 10 cents.

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No. 278—Collegiate Basket Ball Guide.



The official publication of the new Collegiate Basket Ball Association. Contains the official rules, collegiate and high school records, All America selections, reviews of the collegiate basket ball season of 1905-6, and pictures of all the prominent college teams and individual players. Edited by H. A. Fisher, of Columbia. Price 10 cts.

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No. 9—Spalding's Official Indoor Base Ball Guide.



America's national game is now vieing with other indoor games as a winter pastime. This book contains the playing rules, pictures of leading teams from all parts of the country, and interesting articles on the game by leading authorities on the subject. Price 10 cents.

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No. 129—Water Polo.



The contents of this book treat of every detail, the individual work of the players, the practice of the team, how to throw the ball, with illustrations and many valuable hints. Price 10 cents.

No. 199—Equestrian Polo.



Compiled by H. L. Fitzpatrick of the New York Sun. Illustrated with portraits of leading players and contains most useful information for polo players. Price 10 cents.

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By William C. Schmeisser, captain Johns Hopkins University champion intercollegiate lacrosse team of 1902; edited by Ronald T. Abercrombie, ex-captain and coach of Johns Hopkins University lacrosse team, 1900-1904. Every position is thoroughly explained in a most simple and concise manner, rendering it the best manual of the game ever published. Illustrated with numerous snapshots of important plays. Price 10 cents.

No. 248—Archery.



A new and up-to-date book on this fascinating pastime. Edited by Mr. Louis Maxson of Washington, D. C., ex-National champion. Contains a history of archery from its revival as a pastime in the eighteenth century to the present time, with list of winners and scores of the English Grand championships from 1844; National Archery Association of the United States winners and scores; the several varieties of archery; instructions for shooting; how to select implements; how to score; and a great deal of interesting information on the game. Illustrated. Price 10 cents.

No. 138—Spalding's Official Croquet Guide



Contains directions for playing, diagrams of important strokes, description of grounds, instructions for the beginner, terms used in the game, and the official playing rules. Price 10 cents.

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No. 271—Spalding's Official Roque Guide.



The official publication of the National Roque Association of America. Edited by Prof. Charles Jacobus, ex-champion. Contains a description of the courts and their construction, diagrams of the field, illustrations, rules and valuable information. Price 10 cents.

No. 194—Racquets, Squash-Racquets and Court Tennis.



The need of an authoritative handbook at a popular price on these games is filled by this book. How to play each game is thoroughly explained, and all the difficult strokes shown by special photographs taken especially for this book. Contains the official rules for each game, with photographs of well-known courts. Price 10 cents.

No 13—How to Play Hand Ball.



By the world's champion, Michael Egan, of Jersey City. This book has been rewritten and brought up to date in every particular. Every play is thoroughly explained by text and diagram. The numerous illustrations consist of full pages made from photographs of Champion Egan, showing him in all his characteristic attitudes. Price 10 cents.

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By M. W. Deshong. The need of a book on this interesting game has been felt by many who wished to know the fine points and tricks used by the experts. Mr. Deshong explains them, with illustrations, so that a novice can readily understand Price 10 cents.

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Group XII. Athletics

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Compiled by J. E. Sullivan, Chief Department Physical Culture, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, Director Olympic Games, 1904, Special Commissioner from the United States to the Olympic Games at Athens, 1906, and President of the Amateur Athletic Union. The only annual publication now issued that contains a complete list of amateur best-on-records; complete intercollegiate records; complete English records from 1866; swimming records; interscholastic records; Irish, Scotch, Continental, South African and Australasian records; important athletic events and numerous photos of individual athletes and leading athletic teams. Price 10 cents.

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Gives in full the method of scoring the All-Around Championship, giving percentage tables showing what each man receives for each performance in each of the ten events. It contains as well instructive articles on how to train for the All-Around Championship. Illustrated with many pictures of champions in action and scores at all-around meets. Price 10 cents.

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How to become an athlete. It contains full instructions for the beginner, telling how to sprint, hurdle, jump and throw weights, general hints on training; in fact, this book is one of the most complete on the subject that has ever appeared. Special chapters contain valuable advice to beginners and important A. A. U. rules and their explanations, while the pictures comprise many scenes of champions in action. Price 10 cents.

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Edited by James E. Sullivan, President of the Amateur Athletic Union. Tells how to organize an athletic club, how to conduct an athletic meeting, and gives rules for the government of athletic meetings; contents also include directions for building a track and laying out athletic grounds, and a very instructive article on training; fully illustrated with pictures of leading athletes. Price 10 cents.

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A complete account of the Olympic Games of 1906, at Athens, the greatest International Athletic Contest ever held. Containing a short history of the games, story of the American team's trip and their reception at Athens, complete list of starters in every event; winners, their times and distances; the Stadium; list of winners in previous Olympic Games at Athens, Paris and St. Louis, and a great deal of other interesting information. Compiled by J. E. Sullivan, Special Commissioner from the United States to the Olympic Games. Price 10 cts.

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By James S. Mitchel, Champion American weight thrower, and holder of American, Irish, British and Canadian championships. Probably no other man in the world has had the varied and long experience of James S. Mitchel in the weight throwing department of athletics. The book is written in an instructive way, and gives valuable information not only for the novice, but for the expert as well. Illustrated. Price 10 cents.

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The A.A.U. is the governing body of athletes in the United States of America, and all games must be held under its rules, which are exclusively published in this handbook, and a copy should be in the hands of every athlete and every club officer in America. This book contains the official rules for running, jumping, weight throwing, hurdling, pole vaulting, swimming, boxing, wrestling, etc. Price 10 cents.

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Compiled by J. E. Sullivan, Chief Department Physical Culture, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and Director Olympic Games, 1904. Contains a complete report of the Olympic Games of 1904, with list of records and pictures of hundreds of athletes; also reports of the games of 1896 and 1900. Price 10 cents.

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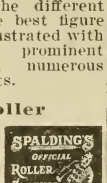
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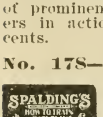
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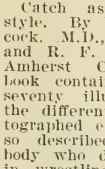
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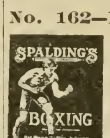
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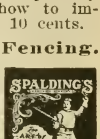
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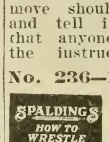
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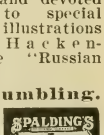
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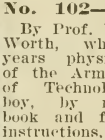
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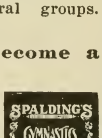
Edited by Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, Director Physical Training, University of Pennsylvania. Profusely illustrated. Price 10 cents.

No. 158—Indoor and Outdoor Gymnastic Games.



Without question one of the best books of its kind ever published. Compiled by Prof. A. M. Chesley, the well-known Y. M. C. A. physical director. It is a book that will prove valuable to indoor and outdoor gymnasiums, schools, outings and gatherings where there are a number to be amused. The games described comprise a list of 120, divided into several groups. Price 10 cents.

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By Robert Stoll, of the New York A. C., the American champion on the flying rings from 1885 to 1892. Any boy who frequents a gymnasium can easily follow the illustrations and instructions in this book and with a little practice become proficient on the horizontal and parallel bars, the trapeze or the "horse." Price 10 cents.

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By W. J. Cromie, Physical Director Germantown (Pa.) Y.M.C.A. The author says: All concede that games and recreative exercises during the adolescent period are preferable to set drills and monotonous movements. If we can introduce this game-and-play element in our gymnastic exercises, then dumb bells will cease to be the boy's nightmare, and he will look forward with expectancy to mass work as much as he formerly did to "shooting a goal." These drills, while designed primarily for boys, can be used successfully with girls and men and women. Profusely illustrated. Price 10 cents.

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James Braid, Open Champion.

SPALDING ATHLETIC LIBRARY
Group V No. 276

How to Play Golf

By

JAMES BRAID
English Open Champion, 1901, 1905, 1906

And

HARRY VARDON
English Open Champion, 1896, 1898, 1899, 1903
American Open Champion, 1900

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AMERICAN SPORTS PUBLISHING COMPANY
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ANNOUNCEMENT

We publish herewith with the consent of the British Sports Publishing Company, Ltd., of London, England, their copyrighted book "How to Play Golf," by James Braid, English Open Champion of 1901, 1905 and 1906. Braid's book has had an enormous sale throughout Great Britain and on the Continent, and it is admitted to be by golf experts the best book of its kind ever published.

"Golfing," the leading British publication on the game of golf, says:

"Simply and straightforwardly written, Champion Braid's book contains more solid and useful information to the square inch than you will find in nine out of ten treatises on golf brought out at a much higher price. Though Braid himself would probably be the first man to disclaim any literary style for his little effort, the style is there, nevertheless, direct, honest, and to the point, like the game of golf played by the man who wrote it. * * * It is a plain and lucid book of practical instructions, penned without a suggestion of literary frills, and illustrated with some capital photographs and diagrams."

In addition to the Braid article a chapter by Harry Vardon on how to play the game is also included. It is a lucid and instructive contribution and is illustrated with pictures of Vardon in all his characteristic attitudes when playing. We venture to say that in no other publication can be found the teachings of such famous exemplars of the royal and ancient game as are James Braid and Harry Vardon.

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I.

BEGINNERS' WRONG IDEAS.

When a man first decides that he will devote himself to the game of golf he has generally something to unlearn at the very outset, even though he has never attempted to strike a ball with a driver in his life. In nine cases out of ten he must abandon all his preconceived notions about the game. He must realise that so far from being the easy thing to play that it seems when one watches a capable exponent driving long balls and placing short shots quite near to the hole almost every time, it is an exceedingly difficult thing, and that proficiency, even in the case of the most athletic and adaptable persons, is only to be acquired as the result of years of the most patient and painstaking practice and of the most careful thought and study of the scientific side of the game. No game demands more scientific accuracy than golf, and there is no game in which shots that are not well played more surely meet with their just punishment. In the reverse there is no game in which small degrees of skill count more regularly in favour of the man who possesses them. The things that look easiest in golf are generally the hardest, and it sometimes takes a man years to learn properly how to raise his club upwards in the swing back before striking the ball—in fact some players go through a lifetime without acquiring the proper method, and their game throughout suffers accordingly.

If the beginner can be brought to realise this simple truth about the difficulty of the game, and of the necessity of taking it most seriously, he will have gained a great deal. One may then tell him that despite all the drudgery of painstaking practice that he will have to undergo, and the thousands of severe disappointments that he must inevitably endure, it does not follow that all the period of his studentship will be dull and uninteresting. It will be far from that. The game will interest him and fascinate him almost as much after his first few lessons as it will do in many after-years. He will find that it is its disappointments and difficulties that make it a game so well worth the playing; and that, while he will be intensely aggravated on some days because he can do nothing right and because it seems that he has forgotten everything that he had learned in months before, he will be correspondingly elated when the skill that he has acquired comes back to him, as it always does, with a little bit added to it as the reward of his persistence.

The golfer finds himself so constantly and keenly ambitious as does the player of no other game. He may be indifferent as to how well or badly he plays other games in which he constantly takes part so long as he can play them in such a manner as "not to make a fool of himself," as he would put it, and when he first thinks he will take up golf that may be his attitude towards it, and he may say to himself that if he gets the exercise and the fresh air that is all that he wants. But he will speedily find, as every one before him has done, that in spite of himself he will soon be yearning for more and more skill, and that never throughout his golfing life will he ever be satisfied. The men who have won championships still

realise their weaknesses and long for more skill just as much as the beginner who even finds it to be a matter of difficulty to hit the ball at all when taking a full swing at it with a driver.

As I have just said, the man who has brought himself under advice to this attitude towards the game at the outset of his career on the links will have gained something, and he will have done it in two ways. He will come to understand that it would be rather too dangerous for him to try to learn the game alone and unaided by any competent teacher, as do many grown-up people, who ought to know better. Undirected in their choice they buy a few clubs for themselves, and with very little notion about how to address and hit the ball they go out on to the links, and flounder about for months with very little improvement in their play, and with far less satisfaction to themselves than if they were making some kind of progress or were conscious that even now and again they made a shot properly. In due course they challenge other players to have matches with them, and when these engagements are confined to opponents who have learned their game in the same way all is well; but nothing is more annoying to a careful and thorough golfer who goes about his golf in the right way and takes some sort of a pride in it, than to be matched with a man who is palpably ignorant of the most elementary principles of the game, though he would not admit it; and he takes care that, so far as he has control over such matters, he will avoid such a match in the future. In his after-life this haphazard player, who taught himself and makes it his boast that he had only one lesson in his life, will probably come to wish that he had

had more and that he had built his game on a sound foundation. These regrets are inevitable. The golf world is overpopulated with persons who wish they had commenced to play in the proper way.

Consequently the wise man who has respect for the game before he plays it will take as much advice and coaching as he can get, and he will be content to begin in the most elementary way, and will not mind any amount of drudgery in the way of practising swings and particular shots before he tries to make a complete round of the links. Nothing is more important than this complete practice of the smallest details at the very beginning, for it is generally the case that habits made at this stage, whether good or bad, will keep to the player for long afterwards, if not for ever. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that the style that he cultivates now should be as good and correct as possible.

There is a variety of other preconceived fancies of which the beginner will do well to get rid before he goes to the links for the first time. A clear understanding of the principles involved in their rejection will help him considerably. For example, in most other games that one can call to mind it is the case that the harder the ball is struck the farther will it travel. This is not nearly such a general principle in golf. If the stroke is absolutely accurate in every respect, and it is a plain, simple drive that is being attempted, then, no doubt, the more power that is put into the drive, if it is put in at the right time and in the right way, the farther will the ball travel. But except in the case of players of many years' experience and of great proficiency it seldom happens that the driving strokes, which are very complicated, are

made so accurately, and when they are not it is the most dangerous thing to hit hard with all one's strength at a ball, or to "press" as it is called. Nobody who has not had to deal with one can imagine what a wayward thing is a golf ball. It has capacities that nobody would suspect or even believe until after experience of them, and it has especially an enormous one for going in a different direction from that in which the stroke was aimed and in which it was desired to despatch the ball. Sometimes it is to the right and sometimes to the left, and in either of these cases it will happen that the harder the ball is hit the shorter will be the distance that it will travel in the desired line. Therefore let the beginner realise that this is not a game for the display of his strength, and even after he has acquired great proficiency—as we hope he will—he will find that the gentler stroke perfectly made and timed will pay quite as well for all practical purposes as the one that was made with all the force at the disposal of the player—in fact, in the course of a long and hard match it will probably pay much better. Often enough it will get the ball farther down the course, and it will be infinitely more reliable. In saying this I must not be understood to mean that the very longest driving, which is undoubtedly useful and necessary if one covets the high honours of golf, is not to be obtained without the application of considerable physical strength; but not one young player in a hundred can apply that strength with safety to his game, and he must wait for length in his driving to come of its own accord, as it will do if it ever comes, meanwhile being content with the comparatively gentle game which is so sure.

VARIETY OF THE GAME.

Another thing that the beginner must be brought to understand on his first day on the links, is that with the exception of tee shots, and not always then, there are no two shots in the game that are exactly similar in all respects, and that a man may play a whole round and find it necessary to make a pronounced difference in every stroke played in it if he is capable of such a thing. No game affords more variety in this respect, though to the eye of the uninitiated the process of working the ball from the tee to the hole seems to contain no variety at all except in the degree of force which is applied to the stroke. He must then understand that the method of playing with the various clubs differs in each case. When he has mastered one club he will still be profoundly ignorant of how to manipulate another. Generally speaking, there is a certain amount of similarity with the play of all wooden clubs, which are chiefly intended to despatch the ball great lengths, and also there is some similarity between the play with different iron clubs which are principally, though not always, used when accuracy in approaching the hole is required more than any great length of the stroke. But there are very wide differences between the play with the wooden clubs and that with the iron ones, and any attempt to use them according to a uniform system, as the untutored beginner would be naturally inclined to do, would be certain to end in nothing but disaster.

In the play with wooden clubs the ball is swept from its resting-place in the course of the long swing of the club, and it is, so to speak, merely an incident of the stroke that the ball is there to be carried along with the club-head. The face of

the driver or brassey is carefully aimed at it, and of course the utmost care has to be taken that it is brought into proper and accurate contact with it; but this is done by the regulation of the other parts of the swing before the club gets anywhere near the ball, and it is of the utmost importance that after striking the ball, the club should be allowed to go through to the finish of the stroke, in a sense as if nothing had happened. In the general understanding of the term the ball is not hit; it is simply swept away.

But in the case of the play with the iron clubs the stroke is distinctly a hit, and, excepting so far as it shows whether the stroke was properly made or not, it matters very little what happens after the ball has left the club. There is, then, this great difference between the two classes of shots, and there are other differences of a minor but still important character between the play with the various clubs in each class. For example, the play with the mashie, which is the tool generally employed when it is desired to lift the ball fairly high up into the air so that when it drops it will not run very far and so that therefore its final resting-place can be most accurately judged, is a whole art and science in itself. The beginner will have gained something when he properly appreciates these points.

II.

METHOD OF TUITION.

It is evident that like all other players of my experience I attach the greatest possible importance to being properly taught from the beginning, and the only exception that I make is in the case of young boys, who, to my mind, really need no tuition at all, despite all the difficulties of the game, and the intricate character of the shots that are played in it. Boys are very adaptive, and if they have the opportunity of seeing good players on the links they very soon imitate them and play in the same way. I should think it is the best thing to let them fall into their own natural style in this way rather than force any particular system on them. If a young boy has got any golf in him he will be able to get it out unaided in the ordinary course. But when he has left school before he first begins to play the case is different, and he must then put himself in the hands of a tutor who will do the best that is possible with him. In a general way the later in life a man begins to play the more artificial and forced is his style, and therefore the more remote are his prospects of ever attaining the hall-mark of proficiency which is indicated in being a scratch player. But it does not by any means follow that a player must begin early in order to play a fine game, for championships have been won by players who never saw a golf ball until they were approaching middle age. In any

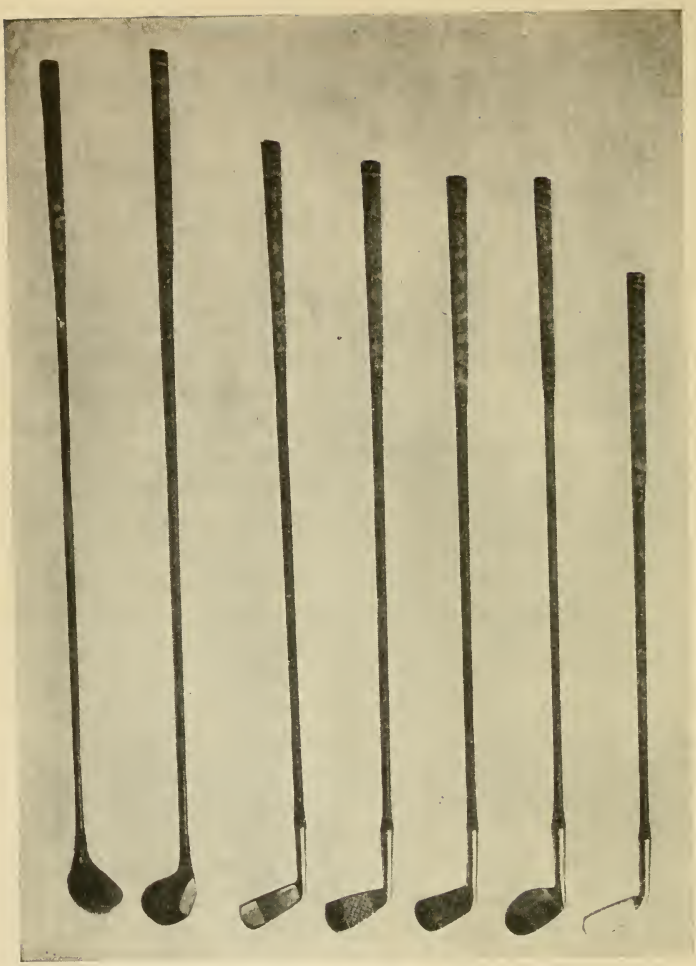
case, whether they begin early or late in life, players derive an almost equal enjoyment from the game, and in most cases that is everything.

One might add that great skill at other games does not necessarily indicate bright prospects of success at golf. To be sure the man who is athletic and adaptable ought to have a pull over others ; but it is surprising in what a large number of cases he fails to show that he has. Most people come to golf from cricket, and it is imagined that cricket is a first-class training for it. So it is up to a certain point; but the cricketer has to make up his mind that when he is on the links he is no cricketer and knows nothing of any other game than that which he has in hand at the moment. If he applies any of his cricket methods to golf he will find himself in trouble, and the cricket stroke in the drive is one of the worst things ever seen on the links, and one of the hardest faults to get out of. One often finds that a good billiard player makes a good golfer, because he has such a full appreciation of the different effects upon a little ball according to the precise manner in which it is struck. And the superior training of his eye stands him in very good stead on the putting greens.

There are two other things for the beginner to bear in mind. The first is that though golf may not be a violent exercise like cricket or football or tennis, it is nevertheless a game which makes many demands on a man's physique, that is if he plays it to any considerable extent. Let it be borne in mind that a man who plays two matches of eighteen holes in a day has necessarily walked the best part of ten miles in doing so, and that he has made somewhere about a couple of hundred body movements in the swinging of his clubs. He will not be able

to do this with the greatest amount of pleasure to himself unless he takes ordinary precautions to keep himself fit and in the best condition of body and nerve.

The last piece of advice I have to give to the beginner before sending him out with his clubs is to make it a principle with himself in his early days to play a little and to think a lot. Golf is a game requiring an enormous amount of thought, and unless the player can always ascertain exactly what is the reason for his faults and what is the reason for his method of remedying them he will never make much progress. The more he thinks out the game for himself the better he will get on at it, and it is when he is doing so that this little volume will be most useful as containing the main principles of correct play set down with as much simplicity and lucidity as I am capable of. I think that every player who is not a boy should take his lessons from a teacher; but a sound book on golf will be of great use to him for study when he is off the links and is reflecting on the things that happened the last time he was there. Short and simple as it is, the man who can bring himself to do everything just as I tell him in this book will have arrived at that stage when he will require very little instruction from any one. I am not going into the fine points of the game, such as intentional slicing, pulling, and so forth, because it may be years before the beginner is ready for such advanced instruction, and at the outset he will find his time quite sufficiently occupied in preventing that pulling and slicing which are not intentional and which threaten to spoil his game.



JAMES BRAID'S CLUBS.

(Names of Clubs reading from left to right.)

Driver. Brassie. Cleek. Iron. Mashie. Niblick. Putter.

See Chapter III.

III.

CHOOSING THE CLUBS.

My first word of advice is to buy no clubs at all, except under the most competent advice, until you know something about the game, and to buy as few as possible until you feel that you know a great deal about it, and really understand what it is that you are buying. The professional or other instructor who gives you your first lessons in the game will be the best man to fit you out; but at some of the best golf stores there are very competent golfers in charge, who have a sufficient sense of the responsibility of their business not to thrust upon the beginner tools that will be of very little use to him even if they will not prove harmful. But the intending player must be very careful as to whom he deals with in this way. It is a great mistake to join a golf club and buy a set of clubs, as so many people do, before the first visit to the course is made, with the mistaken idea that they will be all ready and fitted out on their arrival at the links.

The professional will very soon size up his man, and supply him with what is most adapted to his requirements. There are, however, some general principles governing the selection of clubs for different players which I may set down here. First I would say that for any class of player I do not favour featherweight clubs. A golf-club, after all, is not a very heavy thing, and even the very lightest players, and those who have

the least physical strength must be quite capable of swinging a tolerably heavy club with a good deal of effect. Mind, I am not advocating really heavy clubs for all sorts and conditions of players; but I am merely urging that because a man is physically slender it does not follow that he must have lighter clubs than other men. As a general rule they are not so steady and reliable in the hands of a player as heavier clubs are. To some extent opinion in the golf world changes from time to time as to which is the better, short clubs or long ones. Sometimes there is a craze for clubs with very long shafts, and this fancy reached a very exaggerated stage a little while ago, when some players went in for what were called fishing-rod drivers. In my opinion they gain very little, if anything, in length, and it is inevitable, no matter how clever they are, that they must lose something in accuracy. However, in these matters much depends on fancy, and I will only say that for my own part I rather advocate a club on the short side, because I think it is very much safer in the hands of all classes of players, and ensures far more accuracy than can be gained with the long-shafted tools.

Most particular attention should be paid to what is called the lie of the clubs that are chosen. By this is meant the angle which the bottom of the blade, or the sole of the club, makes with the shaft. It will be evident that according to the angle at which the shaft of the club is held by the player when he is preparing to make his stroke, so will the sole of the club lie evenly on the ground, or with either its toe or its heel raised up above it as the case may be. Now in all cases except one—which I shall point out in due course—it is essential for the proper making of the stroke that the club should be laid thus

evenly on the ground; if it is not the ball will not be taken properly, and something is sure to go wrong with the stroke. The question is as to whether the player must move himself nearer or farther from the ball so as to get his club to the right angle, or whether he must have different clubs to suit the distance at which he feels most comfortable. The latter is the only proper course. Every player will find that he feels more comfortable and in a better working position when he stands at a particular distance from the ball, having regard to the kind of club which he has in his hands at the time, and he should have clubs chosen for him so that when he stands at this distance their soles lie evenly on the turf. Generally a tall man, who will not want to lean out very far in making his stroke, will find that in the natural order of things he will hold his club very upright, and consequently he will want clubs with what we call upright lies, that is clubs which have the angles formed between the soles and the shafts rather sharper—a little nearer to right angles—than in the case of others. Short men, on the other hand, will want clubs with flat lies, as they are called, that is to say clubs in which the angle just referred to is very much wider. The selection of clubs with proper lies is of great importance, and it is above all necessary that the different clubs in a set should have lies to match, and should not be all different from each other. When the latter is the case, as so often happens with inexperienced players, either the player has constantly to accommodate himself to his various clubs and change his position according to each of them, when it should not be necessary to do so (a course of procedure which will spoil all the confidence and accuracy of his play), or else for many of his shots he will be playing his clubs in a way that does

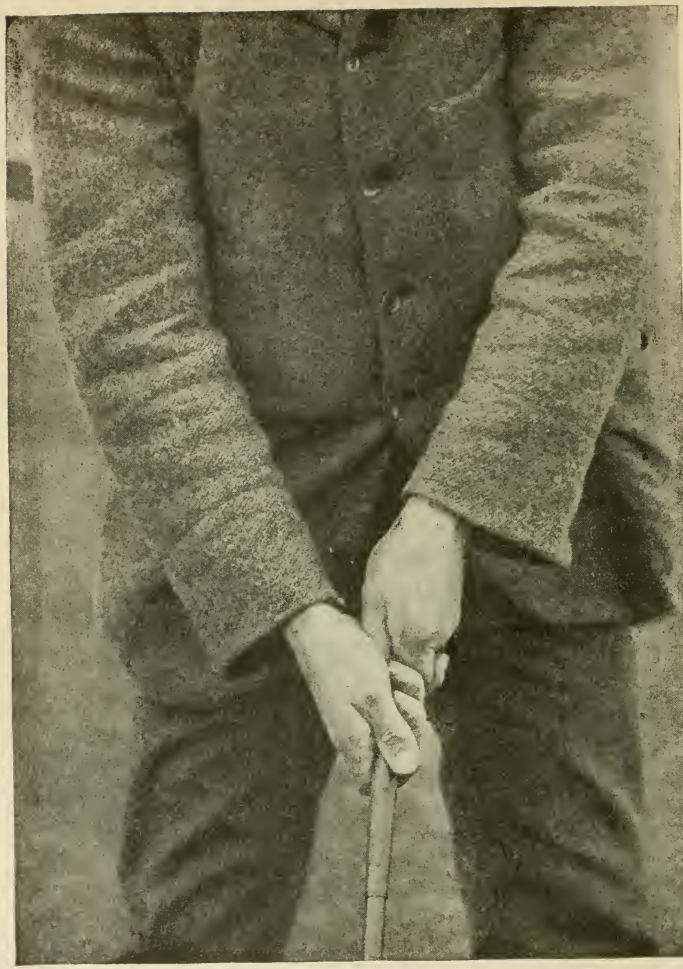
not suit them and from which good results are next to impossible. Players very often blame clubs for their own inferior play when they are not justified in doing so; but it does frequently happen that players have clubs with lies which do not suit them, and this is often the unsuspected cause of constant failure with implements which look to be the very perfection of their class.

Questions as to the length of the face, and the depth of it, and the amount of loft on the various clubs, can only be satisfactorily settled after a little experience, as what will suit one player in this way will not suit another. I may say, however, that I am not very much of a believer in the very short faces on wooden clubs which have been so fashionable during the last few years. I don't see that there is any gain in them, and if there is no gain it is more than likely that there is some loss.

Much depends on the build of a man as to what kind of clubs he should be fitted out with. An entirely different kind of club should be placed in the hands of the free-limbed, athletic man from that which is given to the stiffly built man to play with. The latter plays more from his shoulders, and is unable to twist his body round so easily for the purpose of swinging the club. It follows, therefore, that he usually makes a much shorter swing—a kind of half swing—and when that is the case it is advisable to give him a rather heavier club than usual, in order that he may get a full amount of force into his stroke. On the other hand, the loosely built man, who will naturally go in for a very free and full swing, may have rather lighter clubs.

Whatever the beginner is provided with at the outset, he is

almost sure to change as he gets on at the game and finds out more exactly what his own tastes and preferences are, and with what particular sorts of clubs he can get the best results. Therefore, in view of these likely changes it will be best for him to limit his choice of clubs at the very outset to the fewest possible. He will need a driver, a brassey (which he can do without for the first week or two), an iron, a mashie, a niblick, and a putter. For the first lesson or two he will not really need more than the driver and possibly an iron, and the longer he defers the purchase of the various articles in his kit the more is he likely to be satisfied with them when he does purchase them. The young player, however, must be warned against bringing himself to the conclusion, in his early days of golf, that when he plays badly it is the fault of his clubs, and against forthwith going to the shop to buy more, with which he is certain he will do better. It is extremely unlikely that the disasters that occur to every beginner are in the least degree the fault of the clubs, and the player will only get himself into a quandary if he allows himself to think so. After he has got going at the game he may need one or two more new clubs, principally a cleek.



Position of Hands and Fingers for the Overlapping Grip.
See Chapter IV.

IV.

HOW TO GRIP THE CLUB.

The first thing the beginner will have to learn is how to grip his club properly preparatory to making a stroke, and this is not quite the simple matter that it may appear at the first glance. There are many golfers of considerable experience who do not grip their clubs in the right manner, and they are suffering accordingly. During the last few years a new kind of grip has been making itself exceedingly popular, and it is now used by most of the players who have attained championship honours. It is what they call the overlapping grip. In taking hold of the club the two hands are brought so close together that the right one, which is the lower of the two, actually partly overlaps the left one, that is to say some of the fingers of the former ride on the top of the fingers of the other. For those who can use it properly this grip has many advantages, the chief of which is that there is never any doubt as to the proper amount of work to be done by each hand, since, to a very large extent, the two hands work together as one. When he gets on in the game the player will find that one of his chief difficulties from time to time is properly to apportion the amount of work and responsibility to each hand, and when the business is not properly shared the stroke goes wrong. Sometimes it is necessary that the right hand should be the controlling factor, and sometimes the left, that is when the two hands are held apart as in the ordinary



Another view of the Hands and Fingers in the Overlapping Grip.
See Chapter IV.

grip. Most of the difficulties arising from this state of affairs are obviated in the case of the overlapping grip, and when one has become accustomed to its use it is very easy and comfortable and never gives any trouble. Taylor, Harry Vardon, and I all use this kind of grip.

Those who have started golf with the other one, and now, perhaps later on in their careers, are desirous of making a change to the overlapping grip because they have heard so much about it and because the idea of it appeals to them, should bear one thing in mind, and that is that it will not suit every one—a warning which it seems to me has not been given often enough. Excellent as are the advantages of this way of holding the club, there are some players in whose case it would be mere folly and waste of time trying to cultivate it, and in fact one sometimes sees players persevering with it in the most diligent manner and all the time playing a much worse game than usual in consequence, because of a vain hope that they will sometime reap great benefits from it. What it is absolutely essential the player should have for this grip are very strong fingers, which are at the same time probably a little above the average in length. With fingers of medium strength good results cannot be achieved with the overlapping grip, and it will at the same time be far more comfortable and satisfactory to keep to the old-fashioned system to which many of the best players still adhere and to which there are no objections when it is not abused in any way.

But if there is no reason on this score why the player should not adopt the overlapping grip, and he desires to do so, it may be recommended with all possible confidence, and by way of introducing it to the reader he may be referred to the



Position of Hands and Fingers for the Ordinary two "V" Grip.
See Chapter IV.

photographs of it, which will give him a very clear idea of what it is and how it is made.

It will be noticed that my left hand grips the club well over the top of the shaft, and it grips it firmly with all the fingers. My thumb rests against the side of the shaft, and I might remark here that in the case of the right hand also the thumb is more against the side of the shaft than on the top of it, this constituting a slight difference from the grips taken by other well-known players. It is largely a matter of fancy, and some people maintain that by keeping their thumbs almost, if not completely, on the top of the shafts they keep a better control during the swing; but I have found the opposite to be the case. Having got my left hand in position to begin with, I apply the right hand to the club so that the latter lies in the joint of the first finger. The two first fingers grip well hold of this club, the third finger does very little, and the little one rests on the top of the first finger of the left hand, thus effecting the coupling of the two hands. When the grip is complete the left thumb is pressed against the side of the shaft by the ball of the right hand.

The whole grip must be very firm and such as to ensure a complete command over the club in every respect; but the player must be cautioned against making it too tight, so that the muscles of the wrist and forearm are stiffened up as they are when unusual pressure is employed by the hands in gripping. It is these muscles which have to do much of the work in swinging the club, and it would be fatal to make them so taut as to be more or less unworkable.

The other kind of grip, which is the one most generally in use, is very easily explained. The club is gripped in the simplest possible manner, the left hand above the right, and when this is

done and both hands are brought quite close together so that there is not a fraction of space between them, there is only one particular in which the novice can possibly go wrong. His first instinct would, no doubt, be to take hold of the club in the same way that he would seize anything else that he wanted to wield, and this way would generally consist of each hand being applied sideways to the handle, as it were, so that both sets of finger-nails would come up on the top. This would be quite wrong, and a proper swing would be quite impossible with such a grip. The right hand should be brought much more round on to the top of the shaft, and the left hand should be turned in to meet it as it were, so that the arch formed by the join of the first finger with the thumb in each case is almost directly over the centre of the shaft. Because of this being the guide to the proper way of gripping, the old-fashioned method as thus described is often called the two-V grip. See page 22.

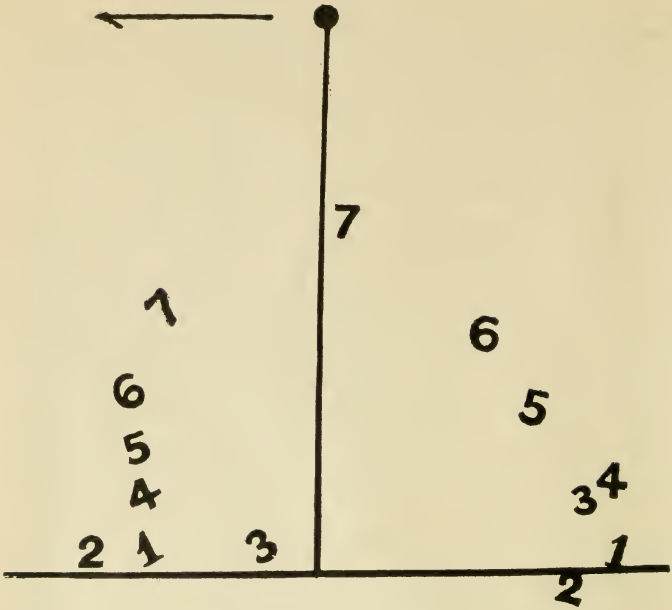
In this case again different players have different fancies as to where the thumbs should be, and in different cases you find one or other, or both of them, on the top of the shaft; but as before I am of opinion that the best place for them is the side.

Make the grip as nearly as possible in the middle of the leather on the handle of the club, with about the same amount of it projecting at each end. One does not get the proper balance of the club and cannot employ it with the same effect if the grip is made right at the bottom, as players sometimes make it when they are off their game and go groping about in all directions for a remedy for the faults that they commit. In such cases it sometimes happens that temporarily a very low grip effects a great improvement; but it is altogether wrong and will sooner or later bring trouble on the player. I would earnestly

advise him therefore to avoid such expedients. In the same way you should not grasp the leather right at the top end, as then you feel a complete loss of control over the club.

It should be remembered that the surface of the leather should be kept in such a state as to afford a perfectly secure grip to the hands. For this reason it should not be soft and smooth, but should have a little bite. If it should be made of ordinary leather it will need to be rubbed occasionally with pitch or wax; but latterly a kind of American cloth has been largely used for these handle coverings, and very delightful it is for such use, giving a cool and very firm grip. Its only disadvantage is that it does not wear very well. Rubber grips are popular with some players, though not so much so as they used to be. They often split and give way at the ends, and then shrink up all at once so that the club is practically useless for the rest of the round, which may sometimes be a very serious matter. Also they are very dangerous in wet weather, for then they become very slippery, and it is next to impossible to keep the hands tight on them. There are tales of championships having been lost through this cause.

I might add that the same system of gripping the club should be carried out uniformly in the case of all the different clubs which the player employs, and the only variation is in the degree of tightness with which the right hand is held. These variations I will explain in their proper place. Some players, however, who cannot master the overlapping grip for their other strokes where force is required more or less, use it in putting, and there is no objection to their doing so if they think it helps them, as it may very conceivably do.



STANCES FOR STROKES.

Showing comparatively the different positions of each foot for play with different clubs. The figures on the left of the vertical line each represent positions of the left foot, and those on the right side the corresponding positions of the right foot. The strokes indicated are as follows :—

1, 1 Ordinary drive.
2, 2 Playing for a pull with driver.
3, 3 Playing for a shie with driver.
4, 4 Full cleek shot.
5, 5 Full iron shot.
6, 6 Full mashie shot.
7, 7 Putting.

V.

STANCE AND ADDRESS IN DRIVING.

The way in which a golfer stands to his ball, and the distance which his feet are from each other and from the ball are called the stance, and the stance varies with each different kind of shot that it is desired to make. When a player has taken up his stance and is preparing to hit the ball he is said to be addressing it. The first shot that is played in the round is the drive, and it is needed from the teeing ground at most of the holes on the way round. In many respects it is the most fascinating shot in the whole of golf, and there is none which gives the golfer so much pleasure as a fine drive, in which the ball is sent along in a dead straight line, or with just such a suspicion of pull on it as to help its length. The golfer always knows when the ball has gone quite sweetly off his club, and when every ounce and grain that he put into the stroke were taken by the ball. It has become the fashion in some quarters to try to make out that long driving is not of so much importance as it has been made out to be, and that players need not make any great efforts to attain it. To that statement one has to reply that while long driving is certainly not everything, and that a player should never sacrifice such accuracy and steadiness as he is capable of in order to accomplish it, still it makes every remaining stroke in the playing of the hole easier and



Stance, Address, and Position of Ball for a Full Drive or Brassey Shot.
See Chapter V.

more certain, and consequently it must necessarily happen that now and again a whole stroke is saved. I therefore say that while short drivers have done great things, and that while there is no reason why they should not do them again, especially now that they are so much helped by the rubber-cored balls, still I think a man can rarely become a really great player unless he is at all events a fairly long driver. As I suggested in the opening pages of this little work, it is more likely to come through great accuracy and the most perfect timing combined with a reasonable exertion of strength than as the result of muscular effort pure and simple.

When the player makes his drive from the tee he is allowed to have most things in his favour, and consequently it is permitted to him to place his ball on a tiny eminence, usually made of sand, which is called teeing it. His club-head, therefore, has a clean sweep at the ball with no obstructions surrounding it. He can make his tee anywhere on the teeing ground within the recognised limits, and he should take advantage of this latitude in selecting a place where his feet will have a secure hold from heel to toe, where the feet will be level with each other, and where the ball will be as nearly as possible on a level patch of ground. A slight inclination one way or the other so as to cause a hanging lie, as it is called, will materially affect the stroke. It is not always a good thing to tee in just the same place as others have done before you, as indicated by the sand they have left behind. The tee in that place is often rough and slippery after such constant use. Care should also be taken to tee the ball in a place where everything about it is smooth and even. A cigarette stump, a piece of paper, or a match stalk might be

quite sufficient to distract the eye when the downward swing was being made, with the result that the stroke would be almost certainly spoiled. For the same reason it is not a good thing to tee up very near to the teeing-box. Tee in such a place that the very narrow field of vision which is afforded to the eye when it is fixed on the ball includes nothing except the tee and the bare turf. The tee should be as low as is consistent with the club taking the ball without any impediment. Many players make the mistake of teeing too high.

Then comes the great question as to how exactly the player shall stand when he is getting ready for his stroke and while he is making it. This is a matter of vast importance, inasmuch as the success or failure of the stroke depends largely on it, and it is surprising what an effect a variation of an inch or two in the position of one or other of the feet will have upon the way in which the ball is hit and the subsequent flight of it. The player should take the greatest pains to find out exactly what stance suits him best for the different strokes, and should be sure that this stance is theoretically justifiable. No very hard-and-fast rule can be laid down, and there is some margin for individual peculiarities, for almost all the leading players vary to some slight extent in this respect. Still there are certain general principles to be obeyed, and if the golfer attempts to defy them because he thinks he can do better in his own way, he is sure to be sorry for it before he has had any very lengthy experience on the links. When he has found the right stance for each stroke he should stick to it, even when he is temporarily off his game and is inclined to try all sorts of dodges in order to get back to it, and he should not give up his stance for

another one until after the gravest consideration, and having quite satisfied himself that what he is doing is for the best.

Now it is impossible to give any definite instruction as to how far in feet and inches the player should stand from the ball, as it is obvious that this must largely depend on his height and the length of his reach. As I am six feet two in height it would be little use for me to tell a player who was only five feet seven how far my feet are from the ball when I am addressing it, because it would be wrong for him to stand so far away, and even in the case of players of the same stature and length of reach there are slight variations which are permissible. As a general rule, however, the player should stand just so far from the ball that when the face of the club is laid against it the end of the shaft just reaches to his left knee when the latter has just the suspicion of a bend in it. Standing at this distance he will be able to make his stroke freely and comfortably and with accuracy, not having to overreach himself on the one hand or cramp himself on the other.

Then as to the relative positions of the feet, there are two distinct systems. The stance, according to one of them, is called the open stance. When this is adopted the right foot is placed considerably nearer to the ball than the left—perhaps eight or nine inches nearer, or even more than that. By this system it will be seen that as the club is being brought on to the ball, and afterwards when it is following through, the passage, so to speak, is quite clear, and the left foot is well out of the way. With this stance, which is very popular with some of the best players, very fine and powerful play is possible. The other stance is rather more old-fashioned, but is still played

with and thoroughly believed in by many of the best amateur and professional players, particularly those belonging to the old Scottish schools. In this case the right toe is either just on a level with the left one or even some inches behind it. To the uninitiated this difference may seem a very small matter; but it means everything to the style of the player. In the case of the open stance the weight for the greater part of the stroke is on the right foot, and therefore we say that the man is playing off the right foot. With the square stance it is rather more on the left. The general opinion seems to be that the open stance is the easier of the two to work with; but I am not in agreement. My own stance is a partially square one, for my toes are almost dead level with each other, as may be seen by reference to the accompanying photographs. After much consideration, and as a result of my experience with hundreds of pupils, I have come to the conclusion that it is easier for the beginner to learn to play off the left foot, that is to say with the toes either level with each other or the right one slightly behind the other. He will get quite as good results with this stance as he would with the other; it is really quite as easy to follow-through with the club when the stroke is being made, and the player is not so liable to fall into the error of getting his hands and body in front of the club. Moreover, one of the commonest and most trying faults of the beginner is slicing with his wooden clubs. A stroke is sliced when the club-head is—imperceptibly to the eye or even to the feel—drawn across the ball at the moment of contact. It may be only a sixteenth of an inch, but the result is to impart a curious motion to the ball, as the result of which, after starting off in a straight line, it suddenly wheels round to the right, and

sometimes towards the end of its flight it is actually travelling at right angles to its original and proper direction. The consequence, of course, is that much of the desired length is lost, and in addition the ball, by wheeling round in this way, is almost certain to land itself into a bunker, or the rough grass or other trouble on the side of the fairway, so that a whole stroke, or the best part of one, is lost. When the golfer plays off the left foot with the square stance, although he is not immune from slicing he is very much less liable to it than with the open stance.

Concerning the position of the ball with respect to the feet, there is not much room for variation or difference of opinion. In some abnormal cases one finds a player teeing up the ball almost opposite his left toe, while a few others bring it back to a point almost midway between the feet, or even a shade more to the right. But undoubtedly a mistake is made in each instance. The commoner practice, and that which I have always adopted myself, and which I recommend to all others, is to place the ball, or place the feet, so that the former is in a line about six inches to the right of the left heel. This allows of the full force of the swing being brought on to it, of the club taking it at the time which is likely to be most effective, and of the follow-through being executed in the easiest and most complete manner. Both the toes should be turned slightly outwards. When in position and ready for play, both the legs and the arms of the player should be just a trifle relaxed—just so much as to get rid of any feeling of stiffness, and to allow of the most complete freedom of movement. The slackening may be a little more pronounced in the case of the arms than with the legs, as much more freedom

is required of them subsequently. They should fall easily and comfortably to the sides, and the general feeling of the player at this stage should be one of flexibility and power. If he does not possess it the chances are that there is something wrong somewhere. He should take care that the weight of his body is now well down on his heels and not on the balls of his feet. An almost imperceptible movement will make all the difference in this respect, and it is quite impossible to drive well or accurately unless the weight is on the heels. There may be a little more weight on the right heel than on the left in the case of the address. In passing it may be remarked that the player should never neglect the precaution of having plenty of good hobnails in the soles of his boots or shoes to prevent him from slipping. Despite the fact that his attitude is constituted for comfort and power, the player should guard against any tendency to stoop or to let his head fall down. Both these faults are very serious in some cases, and are very difficult to get rid of. The head should be kept well up throughout the stroke, and the body should be held up as well as circumstances will permit. The right shoulder may be dipped a little at this point, but care has to be taken that it is not let down any more while the stroke is in progress. When all these arrangements have been made, and the club-head is laid to the ball, the sole of the club, as I have already indicated, must lie flat upon the turf.

Everything is now in readiness for making the stroke, and the player prepares to hit the ball. He takes his last look or two in the direction of the hole to satisfy himself thoroughly about what exactly it is that he wants to do, and what it is necessary to do, and to make a final mental note of the par-

ticular dangers that are in front of this tee shot, and how they may be avoided. While he is doing this he will feel the desire to indulge in a preliminary waggle of the club, just to see that his arms are in working order, waving the club-head backwards and forwards once or twice over the ball. Different players have all kinds of waggles, some slow and deliberate, others quick and energetic, and others again make all kinds of fancy movements. But each adheres to his own system which grows up with him, and without a practice of which he would never feel quite safe in attempting a stroke. Obviously there is no rule in such matters, and the player can only be enjoined to make himself comfortable in the best way he can. But it is better that, during the last waggle at any rate, the eyes should have ceased to regard that point in the distance to which it is intended to despatch the ball, and should have settled down to looking steadily at the ball itself.

This brings me naturally to a repetition of the most justly celebrated maxim in golf—"*Keep your eye on the ball.*" There is no other rule which is half so valuable and necessary, because it is quite certain that if you do not keep your eye on it from the moment that you commence your swing until it has been sent from the tee no good whatever can come of the stroke, and the chances are greatly in favour of its being foozled and generally ruined. Even players of long experience and considerable skill, sometimes, as the result of over-confidence, get into the way now and again of temporarily allowing their eyes to wander, though they are unconscious that they are doing so, and the result is that their strokes go wrong and they cannot think why. It seems such an easy thing to keep one's eye on the ball, and yet it is not quite so easy as it looks. The time

when it is most frequently taken off is just when the club is coming down on to it, and it is just the time when the mistake is likely to prove the most expensive. The fact seems to be that the mind, and the optic nerves through it, work rather more quickly than the arms and body, and they anticipate the flight of the ball and consequently look up in the direction in which it is to travel, eager to see what has become of the stroke. Consequently the impulse is à natural one to some extent, and as such will have to be very carefully guarded against. Some players who find themselves in constant trouble in this matter have forced on themselves a rule that they shall always take care to see the place where the ball was after it has been struck by the club before they look up to see what has happened, and this is not by any means a bad rule in such circumstances, although it involves keeping the eyes fixed on the spot really rather longer than is necessary. If an instantaneous photograph is taken of a good player just at the moment when the ball has started on its journey, and the club is following through, it will be noticed that his gaze is still directed to the spot where the ball was teed, although he would not be conscious of the fact. Like a good many other things, this business which may be rather troublesome at first becomes habit after a while. There is only one other injunction to make, and that is that the gaze should be fastened on to the side of the ball and not on the top of it, that is to say you must look at the point that you mean to hit. And now you begin the swing.

VI.

THE UPWARD SWING IN DRIVING.

If I were asked to say what is the most important movement in the whole of golf, I should say the upward swing when it is intended to make a full shot with either the driver or the brassey. This upward swing comprises a great deal of the style of a player, and it generally surprises the beginner to be told that everything as to the way in which the ball is hit and despatched on its journey depends on this backward movement with the club. Even many old players do not seem to have sufficiently grasped the truth of the statement, or if they have they constantly neglect the moral. Although the up-swing has nothing to do with the hitting of the ball, and it is only in the down-swing that the latter is struck, the up-swing is much the more important movement of the two inasmuch as whatever it is the down-swing is almost sure to be. This is to say that if the up-swing is made in a mechanically and theoretically proper manner, it is unlikely that anything will go wrong at all events until the ball has been hit. On the other hand, if the up-swing is badly made it is practically impossible for the down-swing to be right, and therefore the stroke will be badly played and in one way or another the ball will refuse to travel properly. The first business of the young golfer, therefore, must be to take immeasurable pains to make his up-swing perfect, and it is an exercise that he should never be tired of practising.



Beginning of the Upward Swing for Full Drive or Brassey Shot, showing how the First Movement comes almost entirely from the Wrists. See Chapter VI.

Three important rules about the up-swing may be set down to begin with, and to break any of them will be fatal. In the first place, it must be conducted very slowly—moderately "slow back" is another of the golden rules of golf. Secondly, the head of the player must be kept as motionless as possible; in fact, to all intents and purposes it must be quite rigid and motionless. Thirdly, the body also must be kept quite still; that is, so far as sideways movements or swaying backwards or forwards is concerned. Unless the strictest attention is given to each of these points the whole movement will go out of gear, and anything like uniformity and accuracy will be impossible. The object is to bring the club backwards to a certain point—generally until it is behind the shoulders and about horizontal—in the smoothest and easiest manner possible.

With beginners there may be a natural impulse, particularly when they feel fairly confident about what they are going to do and how they are going to do it, to swing back very suddenly and quickly in the partly unconscious belief that the quicker the thing is done the harder they will be able to hit the ball. As a matter of fact they will find that speed in the backward swing rather takes it off the forward one on to the ball instead of increasing it, and, besides that, tends to make the player lose all control of his movements and of the command of his club. If either the head or the body are guilty of any perceptible movement, there can be no rhythm or accuracy of the stroke. Of course the body has to turn while the up-swing is being made, but it should do this from the hips alone, so that the whole of the human machinery seems to work upon an axis at this point.

Bearing these things in mind, you begin the swing. The



The black patch represents the part of the sole on which the player should balance or pivot during the upward swing instead of on the toe as is commonly done.

first movement must come from the wrists, and it is the left one which makes the initiative. They, and they alone, start the head of the club moving back from the ball, the left one giving the first gentle pressure to the club, while, as soon as the latter begins to move, the left elbow begins to bend slightly so as to accommodate itself to the movement. One of the commonest mistakes seen on the links is the breaking of this rule by players who at the commencement of their swings, instead of letting their wrists begin the work in the manner indicated, swing away both arms to the right from the shoulder. This completely disturbs the whole arrangement, for the wrists, which will still have their work to do, will begin it at a wrong and inconvenient position, and a great deal of power and sureness will have been wasted. This fault is sometimes committed in the belief that a very wide outward and backward sweep of the club is necessary to the making of a good long drive, but such is not the case. I don't believe at all in those long sweeps.

When the swing is well started, that is to say, when the club has been taken a matter of about a couple of feet from the ball it will become impossible, or at least inconvenient and uncomfortable, to keep the feet so firmly planted on the ground as they were when the address was made. It is the left one that wants to move, and consequently at this stage you must allow it to pivot. By this is meant that the heel is raised slightly, and the foot turns over until only the ball of it rests on the ground. Many players pivot on the toe, but I think this is not so safe, and does not preserve the balance so well. When this pivoting begins the weight is being taken off the left leg and transferred almost entirely to the right, and at the same moment the left knee turns in towards the right toe. The right leg then stiffens

a little, and the right heel is more firmly than ever planted on the ground.

The continuation of the up-swing is a simple matter so long as it is not too rapidly executed. Keep the right elbow fairly well into the side of the body. In far too many cases players let it go away from them as soon as the swing gets under way, partly, perhaps, with the idea of getting that wide sweep to which reference has just been made. The only real result, however, is to destroy accuracy and power and the whole beauty of the movement—because the swing for the drive is really a beautiful movement—is spoiled. The club has to be brought round to the back of the body and not over the head. As the club begins to get round there the left wrist must be allowed to turn inwards and underneath the shaft. This is very important, because when the wrist is kept alongside or over the shaft the position is very cramped, the head of the club is not in the proper position for commencing the downward swing, and all manner of evils arise as the result. If a player tries the swing both ways he will feel at once the great difference in the comfort and feeling of control that he has over the club when he works that left wrist in the proper manner.

VII.

THE TOP OF THE SWING.

When the club has been brought back in the way I have directed, and when the wrists have been allowed to do their work in the proper manner, it will be found that at the farthest point of the backward swing, or the top of the swing as we call it, the toe of the club is facing the ground. If it does not do so it is an absolutely certain sign that there is something seriously wrong—generally with the wrist work—and it is quite necessary that the player should find out what is the matter, and set it right.

The question arises as to how far this backward swing should be prolonged. No very strict rule can be laid down in the matter, as it largely depends on the peculiarities of the style of play and also of the physical powers of the player. A strong man, flexibly built, and with powerful wrists, may take a longer swing, and take it with advantage, than a weaker man with slender wrists, and the stiffly built man will inconvenience himself very considerably if he attempts a long swing. It does not by any means follow that the longer the swing—that is, when it is carried to excess—the longer will be the drive, and there is certainly some gain in exactness when shorter swings are employed. It must be remembered that the player nearly always swings much more than he thinks he does. In no case do I think it advisable to prolong the swing beyond that point



Top of Swing for Full Drive or Brassey Shot.
See Chapter VII.

when the club becomes horizontal, and it should not be taken so far if the player feels that he is losing control over it. That is the best rule in the matter—that the club must not be taken an inch farther back than that point at which the player has the fullest and a most absolute control over it. If this is lost for an instant at the top of the swing the gravest consequence may be feared, and most of the care which was lavished on the preliminary movements will have been wasted. Besides, in the case of very long swings there is always a strong tendency to cut the ball.

Bearing in mind what has already been said about not letting the right elbow get too far away from the body during the upward swing, it will be found, or should be, that at the top of the swing it is not more than six inches away—that is to say, not an inch further away than is consistent with making the swing in a free-and-easy manner.

While it is of great importance for the sake of both accuracy and power that the swing back should be made slowly, as already directed, the player must guard against any tendency to make a pause at the top point. The beginner, in his deliberate and very conscious efforts, which are never more conscious than at this turning-point of the swing, when he feels an enormous sense of responsibility, regularly comes to a full stop here, and the result is practically to destroy all the value of the upward movement. It is just the same as if the club had been poised in the air and the whole thing begun from the top point. There should be nothing in the nature of a sudden jerk back from the top of the swing ; but the downward movement should be begun as soon as the upward one has ceased, and there should be no perceptible pause. However, at the very commencement of his practice,



Top of Swing for Full Drive or Brassey Shot. Taken from behind, and showing Position of Hands and Arms.
See Chapter VII.

and until he becomes somewhat used to the swing of the club in something near to the proper manner, the beginner may be excused from some of the necessities that I have here pointed out, lest in any anxiety on the matter he should spoil his upswing. As soon as confidence comes to him, and he feels that he is swinging his driver in comfort and with some accuracy and more or less unconsciously, he must see to it that the pause at the top, which may have been conspicuous in his earlier efforts, is abolished.

VIII.

THE DOWNWARD SWING.

So now we may begin the down-swing, which, though it is all-important in that it is the really active part of the stroke, the one that makes the ball go, is in many of its features one which in the nature of things affords less scope for effort and care than the upward swing, since, as already pointed out, what the latter is, so is the downward swing almost certain to be. One might say that the up-swing is really the first half of the down-swing, and the half that settles what the whole thing is going to be.

The chief thing to bear in mind is that there must be in the case of play with the driver and the brassey no attempt to *hit* the ball, which must be simply swept from the tee and carried forward in the even and rapid swing of the club. The drive in golf differs from almost every other stroke in every game in which the propulsion of a ball is the object. In the ordinary sense of the word, implying a sudden and sharp impact, it is not a "hit" when it is properly done. When the ball is so "hit," and the club stops very soon afterwards, the result is that very little length comparatively will be obtained, and that, moreover, there will be a very small amount of control over the direction of the ball.

While it is, of course, in the highest degree necessary that the ball shall be taken in exactly the right place on the club and in the right manner, this will have to be done by the proper regula-

tion of all the other parts of the swing, and any effort to direct the club on to it in a particular manner just as the ball is being reached cannot be attended by success. If the ball is taken by the toe or heel of the club, or is topped, or if the club gets too much under it, the remedy for these faults is not to be found in a more deliberate directing of the club on to the ball just as the two are about to come into contact, but in the better and more exact regulation of the swing the whole way through up to this point. Something may be wrong with the stance, the body may have swayed, the head may have been allowed to move, or the movement of the wrists and arms may have been wrong and not according to the standard directions as I have just laid them down. The object of these remarks is merely to emphasise again in the best place that the despatching of the ball from the tee by the driver in the downward swing is merely an incident of the whole business. The player, in making the down movement, must not be so particular to see while doing it that he hits the ball properly as that he makes the swing properly and finishes it well, for—and this signifies the truth of what I have been saying—the success of the drive is not only made by what has gone before, but it is also due largely to the course taken by the club after the ball has been hit.

On the whole the player will be, and must be, far less conscious of all the details of his action in the down-swing than when he was taking the club upwards. Having brought the club with the utmost care and thought and attention to detail to the top point, there is only one more thing to do, and that is to finish off the swing and get the ball away as rapidly as possible. It is only after the ball has gone that consciousness will begin to fully assert itself and enable the player to give thought to the manner

of finishing. In time, and when the man is on his game, the whole thing, from start to finish, should be to a certain extent mechanical.

The initiative in bringing down the club is taken by the left wrist, and the club is then brought forward rapidly and with an even acceleration of pace until the club-head is about a couple of feet from the ball. So far the movement will largely have been an arm movement, but at this point there should be some tightening up of the wrists, and the club will be gripped a little more tightly. This will probably come about naturally, and though some authorities have expressed different opinions, I am certainly one of those who believe that the work done by the wrists at this point has a lot to do with the making of the drive. It is merely an assertion of power on their part, and if it ever comes to the player it will come naturally and in the course of experience. Directions about it cannot be laid down. Just when the wrists begin to take their part in the stroke, when the face of the club is approaching the ball, the body begins to turn and the left knee comes in quickly from its pivoting position, so that at the moment of striking the player is quite firm on both his feet and faces directly to the ball, just as he did when he was addressing it before he began the upward swing. Any one who thinks out the theory of the swing for himself will see that it is obviously intended that at the moment of impact the player shall be just as he was when he addressed the ball, which is the position which will afford him most driving power and accuracy.

IX.

FINISHING THE STROKE.

The second that the ball is hit, but not before, the player should begin to turn on his right toe, and to allow a little bend of the right knee, so as to allow the right shoulder to come round until the body faces the line of flight of the ball. When this is done properly the weight will be thrown on to the left foot, and the whole body will be thrown slightly forward. The whole of this movement needs very careful timing, because it is a very common fault with some players to let the body get in too soon, and in such cases the stroke is always ruined. Examine the photographs.

A word about the varying pressure of the grip with each hand. In the address the left hand should just be squeezing the handle of the club, but not so tightly as if one were afraid of losing it. The right hand should hold the club a little more loosely. The left hand should hold firmly all the way through. The right will open a little at the top of the swing to allow the club to move easily, but it should automatically tighten itself in the downward swing.

There is only one point now in regard to the finishing of the stroke to which one feels that one should direct attention, for if everything has been done properly up to this point the accurate performance of the rest is almost inevitable. But there is a great tendency on the part of some players to twitch in their arms and



Finish of a Full Drive or Brassey Shot.
See Chapter IX.

nip the drive after the impact with the ball. The hands are pulled in and come to a stop close to the left breast-pocket of the coat, and when this is done the club-shaft either points forward or straight up. The most immature player will feel by instinct that there is something wrong about this, and that it is a rather weak and uncomfortable way of finishing what was a very even and powerful movement. The fact is that the hands have no business in this place, and their being there has prevented the arms from going out and the club from getting right through with the stroke. When the ball has been swept from the tee the arms should to a certain extent be flung out after it, and they should be carried through well clear of the body until they come to a natural and easy stop and not a forced one, just about shoulder-high but some distance from the shoulder. When this is done the club will have passed the perpendicular and will have travelled a distance towards the back, which varies in the case of different players. Some men go in for rather exaggerated finishes, and carry the club so far through that it comes almost back to their right heel, but I cannot see that there is any advantage in this process, so long as the finish is fully executed up to the point I have indicated. When the arms get well through, and the hands finish high up in the place I have indicated, the player will find that he experiences a sense of completeness and satisfaction, even of exhilaration, which will be denied to him if his drive is nipped. It is a very pleasant thing when, having followed well through and finished the stroke properly, the ball is watched speeding onwards on the proper line and with just the right angle of flight to make it travel well.

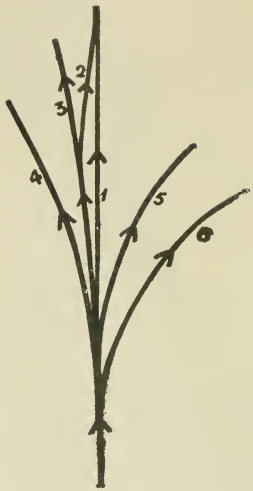
It is appropriate to mention at this point just a word of warning about style. When you have followed through and



Another View of the Finish of the Full Drive or Brassey Shot, showing the Position of the Hands and Arms, and how the Body is brought round to Face the Hole. See Chapter IX.

finished the stroke properly, get into the habit of retaining this pleasant position until the ball has pretty well run its length and the time has come for your opponent to take his place on the tee, or, if he has already driven, for you both to be moving on. Some players, generally those of a somewhat excitable disposition, get into the way of dropping their club, or releasing one hand from the grip and dropping it to the side, and of moving their feet and bending their body as soon as the ball has been struck. Perhaps if they quite realised how badly the appearance of such a proceeding compares with that of a finish in the proper manner they would be more anxious to get out of the habit than they often are.

As a final injunction, one would again urge the importance of keeping the body perfectly steady not only during the upward swing, as already emphasised, but during the downward swing until the ball has gone, and the head all this time should be perfectly motionless with the eye glued on to the back of the ball. If the body keeps to its original position and turns from the waist, and the head remains still, it should be found that at the top of the swing the eyes are looking over the left shoulder which will be in a direct line between the head and the ball.



GOOD DRIVES AND BAD

1. The straight ball usually the best.
2. A ball that begins with a little pull and comes round again—generally a fine traveller.
3. Slightly pulled—fairly long.
4. More pull ; trouble likely.
5. Sliced and length lost.
6. Bad Slice ; the worst ball of all.

See Chapter X.

X.

THE LONG BALL.

It will be seen that although the drive may look a very simple thing when being performed by a capable player, it is in reality a fairly complicated set of movements, all of which have to fit into each other with the utmost nicety, and the least deviation from absolute correctness in the case of any one of them is sufficient to throw the whole thing out of gear and ruin the stroke, and how easily ruined it is only golfers of experience know. It is too much to expect of any young player that he will achieve really good results in driving until he has practised most diligently for some considerable time; and indeed he will hardly drive a good ball until the actual driving has to a large extent ceased to worry him and he has commenced to do it half naturally and unconsciously.

The more naturally the swing is made and the more perfect the movements the longer will the drive become in due course, and one must warn the novice against striving too much to hit long balls. In a large measure they must be left to come of themselves, and any attempt to get them by force, or by "pressing," is almost certain to have disastrous results. By this I do not mean to say that when the upward and downward swings are perfectly executed the application of strength and force in the second half of the proceeding will not result in a gain of distance, because it is evident that many players



Every fault in Driving, and a sight not so uncommon on the Links as it may look.

get their long balls in this way, but it is not safe to force the drive until the player is very experienced and his style and methods have become quite settled. The beginner should make it his sole object to make his swings properly, to hit the ball as it ought to be hit, and to send it straight along the line without either pull or slice and at just the proper height. If he does this he will find that very gradually but very surely length will come of itself, and that really long balls may be got without any apparent extra effort of strength. If he watches the great players he will find that many of them drive balls practically as far as it is humanly possible to do under present conditions without any such apparent effort, and one is therefore inclined to say that perfect skill combined with a moderate amount of strength is what is most necessary for this purpose. Certainly I would say that the secret of the long ball is not absolutely strength, for I think that looseness of limb has more to do with it than that.

For the rest, the art of driving the very long ball seems to be more or less of a natural gift. Some men can do it, and others can't and never will however much they try, and that seems to be the end of it. My own experience rather suggests that there is something too mysterious about the business for explanation, because though I am considered to be a long driver in these days, and am generally capable of holding my own in this respect, this was not always the case, and the change not only came about suddenly but in a manner that I have never been able to explain with the least degree of satisfaction to myself or to any one else. In my younger days I was quite a short driver, and in my matches with my friends I was constantly outdriven, so that I was always having to

fight hard in the short game. It seemed that my failing in this respect would be fatal to me and to my prospects of success, when suddenly, without any warning and without any conscious alteration of any of my methods, I began to drive a great length, and instead of being outdriven I began to outdrive all my opponents. I actually put on forty yards in a fortnight, and those forty yards, with perhaps a few more to keep them company, I have retained ever since, never having gone back to my old short-driving experiences. How this came about is the greatest mystery of my golfing career, and I shall never be able to solve it. It certainly was not strength that did it.

Therefore I strongly advise all young players against pressing for the long ball. If they are to be any good at the game it will be necessary for them to drive a reasonable length, say a hundred and eighty yards, with a fair degree of regularity, but this can be done without any application of great strength —simply by perfect accuracy of swing and proper timing— and when they have got to that point of reliability that they can depend upon driving so far on the majority of occasions I would recommend to them that for the future instead of trying to drive farther and farther, as the majority of them do, with the result that a fair proportion of their shots are spoiled in the endeavour, they should instead concentrate all their efforts on getting straighter and straighter every time. They will find this a far more profitable study than that of how to get the long ball, even if their researches in the latter direction should prove successful. Nothing pays in driving like absolute reliability and straightness, and the man who always hits a ball of fair length and who is always on the

line and on the straight road for the hole ought generally, bar accidents, to score over another who is a confirmed slogger, and who doesn't mind if several of his strokes with wooden clubs do send his ball into the rough so long as the others despatch it a really wonderful distance down the course. It doesn't pay the same.



Stance for Drive with Pull.
See Chapter XI.

XI.

PULLING AND SLICING.

To pull and to slice is both a fault and an acquisition, according to whether it is accidental or intentional. The beginner is not often troubled by pulling, but he very frequently suffers from badly sliced balls, and they not only land him in bunkers and in the rough grass, but they take all the length off his drive and cause him the greatest exasperation. It is very difficult to set down in writing any cure for slicing, because it may be caused in so many different ways, and frequently the very slightest adjustment of the stance or the swing is all that is necessary. It may be pointed out, however, that what really makes the slice is the drawing of the face of the club across the ball at the moment of impact. This may be done in several different ways, but when unintentional it is most commonly due either to the pulling in of the arms as soon as the ball has been struck or to a faulty stance—with the right foot too far forward. In each case the cure here is obvious, but when a young player has got a really bad attack of slicing, which he cannot get rid of, he should without delay consult his professional, who will generally be able to set him right in a very few minutes. In the same way pulling, when accidental and not wanted, is brought about through many different faults, but it is chiefly due to improper stance, to bad timing, or to over-



Stance for Drive with Slice.
See Chapter XI.

work by the right hand. As before, ask the professional to put you right.

Sometimes players wish to do these things deliberately, as when a pulled or sliced ball will get them round an obstacle which is in their way to the hole without putting them to the necessity of going over it, a course which might often mean a high ball and one which was consequently devoid of length. However, I feel much diffidence in giving any instruction on these points. For one thing, by the time the player comes to be so expert and to have so much command over his club as to feel any ambitions of this kind he will have got very far from the beginner's stage, and he will really not be in need of instruction as to how to do these shots; and, on the other hand, a player would be very ill advised to attempt any tricks of this kind until he has obtained this complete mastery over his club and is expert in the ordinary strokes of the game. Besides, a man who can drive a straight and sure ball will generally find that he can adapt himself to practically all the varying circumstances of the game, and the way to win matches is generally to play straight to the hole. He who is straightest most frequently wins. I would only hint that the most elementary direction for obtaining the sliced ball is to take your stance with your right foot advanced and so that the ball is more in a line with the left heel than in the case of an ordinary stroke with a wooden club, while to get the pulled ball the right foot should be drawn back and the sphere should be more towards the right, or about midway between the feet. The pulled ball is always more difficult to obtain, and especially to control, than the sliced ball.

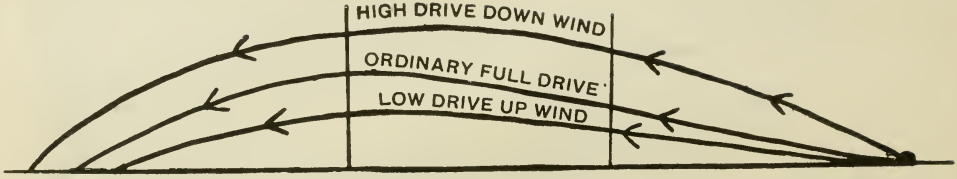


Diagram showing best Curves and Heights of Flight of Ball driven by Wooden Clubs in varying circumstances. See Chapter XII.

XII.

PLAYING IN A WIND.

I should say something about playing the long game when a wind is blowing, which is a circumstance constantly encountered. In this matter, at all events, the player of a very little experience may be permitted to attempt some adaptation of his play to the prevailing conditions, for it is easily done, and involves no very great deviation from ordinary methods. In the first place, I would say that it is a very good thing to shorten the swing on a windy day, no matter from what point of the compass the wind is blowing. There is always a little tendency to unsteadiness when the wind is blowing strongly. The player is not quite so comfortable as usual, and if he shortens his swing he will probably achieve some extra confidence. Moreover, I also recommend that when playing both up and down the wind the upward and downward swings should be rather slower than usual. I find that the effect is advantageous in both cases. When playing against the wind the ball always seems to me to bore its way better through it when hit slowly than when the swing has been quickly made, while with the wind the slow swing seems to give the ball more time to rise and get the advantage of what is blowing.

In the case of cross-winds I would not advise young players to attempt any greater deviation from their usual game than is comprised in the very simple process of making a certain



Braid "letting out at it" in his Drive.
A characteristic finish by the Champion.

allowance for the wind in the direction in which the ball is hit, and when this is properly done it ought to be sufficient for anything. When the wind is blowing from the front against the player he may go so far as to stand a little more in front of the ball, keep his weight rather more forward, and take pains to hold his right shoulder well up throughout the stroke. The result of these slight variations from the usual course of procedure is to keep the ball low down, for it is only a low ball, with a lot of driving power in it, that stands any chance of getting distance when the wind is coming up strongly from the front. In the reverse case, when you are playing down the wind the object is to get the ball up fairly high—not forgetting, of course, to get the driving power into it as well—so that the wind may get fairly hold of it and help it along. In this case, if it is a tee shot the ball may be teed a little higher than usual, bearing in mind that small trifles of this kind go a very long way, and the player may take his stance a little more to the right, or behind the ball, and allow his right shoulder to droop a little more—a proceeding, however, which must be conducted with the utmost caution, since dropping the right shoulder is often a dangerous fault in beginners, and one which they have difficulty in getting out of.

XIII.

BRASSEY PLAY.

To all intents and purposes a brassey shot is simply a tee shot without the tee, and all that has been said about driving in the foregoing pages applies to play with the brassey. The object in each case is to drive the ball as far as possible in the direction of the hole, and with this in view a similar type of wooden club is employed both times. The only material difference is that whereas in the case of the tee shot the player is given everything in his favour and is allowed to pick and choose the place where he will play from and to tee up the ball exactly to his liking, he must in the case of the brassey shot that follows take the circumstances as he finds them, whether they are good or bad. If the tee shot was a good one the chances are that he will be provided with a ball lying nicely for his second shot, as he deserves to be, and he may count himself unlucky if he has any material difficulties to face in the matter of lie or stance. But if the least thing went wrong with the drive, or if the direction was not good, it might very likely happen that when the time came for the second shot to be played it would be found that neither the lie nor the stance were quite what they might be desired to be. So many beginners take their brassey as a matter of course for the second shot, if it ought to be a long one, that it may be timely to suggest to them that they should more frequently ask themselves the question when they come to the ball whether the

lie is really one that justifies the use of the brassey, because if it does not the chances of failure are very great, whereas by sacrificing a little distance a fair amount of success may be guaranteed by the use of an iron club. While you do not want a teed ball for play with the brassey, the lie must always be reasonably good, that is to say the ball must be standing fairly well up on the top of the turf, and there must be a clear approach to it for the club. If it is at all cupped, or if there are obstructions about it which will prevent the wooden club from getting quite cleanly to it, it will be far better to choose the iron which is best adapted to the circumstances, although many players are expert at manipulating their brasseys in all kinds of disheartening situations, as they have to be when they get into the higher classes of golf and are set the task of winning or halving holes from opponents who know every shot in the game, and who have had better luck with some of their strokes from the tee.

A word may usefully be said about the club. The brassey is, or ought to be, a driver pure and simple, with only such modifications as are rendered necessary by the slightly different character of its work, and such as would almost suggest themselves to the most inexperienced player. For example, we sole the club with a thin sheath of brass for its better protection and because the club-head then goes more smoothly and easily to the ball. We generally put a little more loft on to the face of the club because it has to do the work of picking the ball up from the turf, whereas the driver with its straight face had the ball already sitting up for it clear of the ground and only needing to be driven forward. Care should be taken, however, that too much loft is not put on the face of the brassey. A very little is

all that is necessary, but some players with a limited experience whenever they find difficulty with their brassey, and particularly when it seems to them a very hard thing to get the ball up, come to the conclusion that there is something wrong with the club, and then they take it to the club-maker's shop and ask for a little more loft to be filed on to it. Not only does it generally happen that the trouble from which they suffered before is still as bad as ever, but it must be borne in mind that after all it is desired to get length with the brassey, and that there is no compatability between length and loft, so that they have materially damaged the driving powers of their club. A professional is in the first instance very unlikely to put into the hands of a player a club which has not got enough loft on it to get the ball up from any ordinary lie. Then it often happens that the face of the club is rather shorter than that of the driver, particularly at the bottom, so that it requires less room to get at the ball and encounters less obstruction in case the lie is very grassy or otherwise a trifle thick. I must say, however, that I am rather against the extremely short faces that have been put on brasseys during the last year or two by many makers. I don't see that they are necessary, and they must to some extent increase the risk of the stroke being a failure. Some people recommend that the brassey should be slightly—generally about an inch—shorter than the driver used by the same player; but I cannot understand why they do so, and as the object is to play the stroke in the same way as when driving from the tee the suggestion seems opposed to reason. The brassey should be about the same length as the driver. I might add that my own brassey is the same length as my driver. Care must be taken that the lie of the brassey matches that of the driver, and it is neglect of this rather

obvious point that causes many of the difficulties of young players. They choose a driver to suit them, and then they select a brassey which they think is just what they want without ever taking the trouble to see that both have the same angles of lies, which they should have if the same kind of stance is to be adopted in each case. If this precaution is not adopted the player may be called upon to play a quite different game with his brassey from that to which he has become accustomed with his driver, if he is to obtain anything approximating to the same results, or if he does not, he is almost sure to fail altogether. The driver and the brassey should be perfect duplicates in this matter. As a final word about the club, it should usually have a fairly stiff shaft, as it is sometimes called upon to execute rather rougher work than is ever demanded of the driver.

When he has the right kind of club in his hands the player in attempting a brassey shot has only to play it in the same way as when driving, but instead of looking at the side of the ball he may be recommended to keep his eyes on the grass immediately behind it. This should ensure his hitting the ball in the right place. He must get out of his mind at the very beginning a little idea that is very likely to get into it, which is that the player himself must do something considerable towards getting the ball up from its low lie—something, that is, that he had not to do when driving. This idea results very frequently in his dipping his right shoulder and trying to scoop the ball up, and it is very seldom that anything like a good shot is ever made out of such attempts. The player must be brought to realise that his club is specially designed for getting the ball up, and if he takes it cleanly and properly the work will be well done without any further assistance from

him. In what might be called advanced golf there is sometimes a kind of jab stroke played with the brassey when the ball is lying badly and the club has to get well under it to force it out; but the beginner had better make up his mind not to attempt any such strokes as this until he has attained a great measure of proficiency in the game.

XIV.

PLAY WITH IRON CLUBS.

I have devoted so much space to the play with the wooden clubs because the man who learns to play fairly reliably with them has laid the foundations of a good game, and in the majority of cases he will then get on pretty well with his irons, although they require different treatment. Still, in the main the principles are the same, and have only to be adapted to the special requirements of the different clubs and the needs of the situation. When one plays with the driver and the brassey the object generally is to get as far as possible; but when the distance it is required to get is less than that which may be achieved by a full shot with either wooden club one or other of the various iron instruments is generally taken. It is taken into account also that when the distance is comparatively short in this way it is generally required to be more exact in the placing of the ball. The hole will usually be within reach, and it is now desired to get as near to it as possible with a view perhaps of saving a stroke or to making the final stages of the short game as easy and certain as possible. In a word, distance is now to be sacrificed to accuracy.

Broadly speaking there are five different classes of irons, for each of which there is a special use. First there is the cleek, with which a good player can get pretty nearly as far as with a brassey, and which he uses either when the distance is

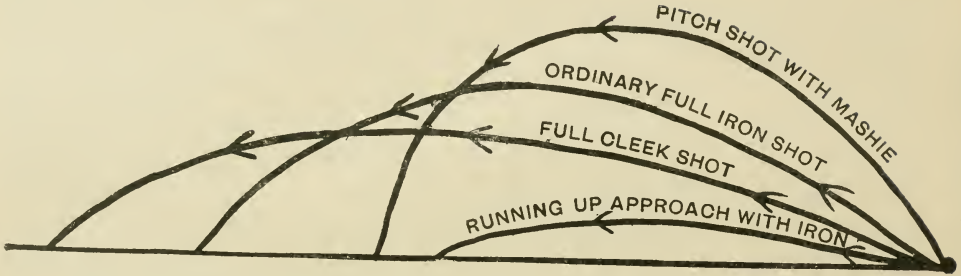


Diagram showing Curves and Heights of Flight of Ball from different Iron Clubs.
See Chapter XIV.

rather under that of a brassey or for a long, low approach of practically brassey distance, but which calls for special accuracy in direction. Some players carry both a cleek and a driving mashie in their bags, and have uses for each, but as a rule they are employed for the same purpose, and some players who find that they cannot get on well with one play the same kind of shot with the other. The difference is that the driving mashie has generally a shorter and deeper blade than the cleek, and is slightly heavier. It is a great favourite with many golfers, but those who are masters of the cleek have a great preference for the latter. After the cleek and the driving mashie comes the iron, which is one of the most generally useful clubs that are carried. It is used for shots of medium length, say from a hundred up to a hundred and thirty or forty yards. Its blade is fairly long and moderately deep, and it has some considerable loft on it, so that when the ball is struck it lifts it up into the air. In this way obstructions between the player and the green are surmounted, and the high ball does not run so much when it comes to the turf, so that its final resting-place can be fairly accurately gauged. Next there is the mashie, which is a club with a short and deep blade on which there is a great deal of loft. This club is only used for very short shots of rarely more than a hundred yards at the outside, and its special purpose is to pitch the ball high up so that it will not only clear all the bunkers guarding the hole but will drop it almost dead on to the green without any run on it. If a short approach shot of this character were played with a club which had not so much loft on it the ball would be kept too low and would as a result have a lot of run on it, so that it

would be very difficult to play it so exactly as to guarantee the ball pulling up in that close proximity to the hole that is desired. Although the principles of play with it are very simple, the mashie is one of the most difficult of all clubs to use really well, and it is one in regard to which good play pays exceedingly.

Of the remaining clubs there is the niblick, which is a very heavy tool with much loft on it, and which is generally employed for delivering the ball from sand bunkers and coarse, rough obstructions of all kinds into which either the bad play or the bad luck of the golfer has placed it, and for which cases the lighter and more delicate iron clubs would be quite useless. Some players, however, have much finer uses for the niblick, and find it to be a very effective club for making short lofted approaches, as with it the ball can be stopped quite dead on its reaching the green. The fifth iron club is the putter, which, as its name implies, is used to putt the ball into the hole—the last stroke in the play at each hole and one which must obviously be the most delicate and exact of all. There are scores of kinds of putters, and some of them are not made of iron at all, favourite patterns being in aluminium or wood.

Concerning the details of stance and swing with each of these clubs I shall have a little to say in due course, but, speaking generally, I would remark here at the outset that I do not favour taking a full shot with any of them unless special circumstances render it absolutely necessary, except perhaps with the cleek. The iron clubs are heavier than the wooden ones, and are consequently more under control, and it will be found that with a three-quarter swing they will be

still more under control, and there will be, or should be, a corresponding gain in accuracy which is all-important. By a three-quarter swing one means a swing in which the club is carried back for only about three-quarters of the distance that it would be taken when making a full shot with the driver, that is to say not so far as the horizontal. A considerable amount of practice may be needed to regulate these swings, but the player will come to make them with great accuracy if he perseveres.

The play with all iron clubs differs from that with wooden ones in another important respect, which is that with them the stroke is always much more of a hit. I have impressed it on the reader that when driving the ball you do not hit it, but, so to speak, sweep it off its resting-place; but when playing it with an iron you do hit it a sharp, sudden blow, and the follow-through is of much less importance than in case of tee and brassey shots, and is really only of any importance at all in so far that it shows whether the upward swing was properly made or not. The strongest iron players always make a hit pure and simple at the ball. Partly for this reason, and partly to gain greater accuracy of direction and greater control over the club the irons are gripped much more tightly with the right hand. Both hands hold them very firmly indeed, but the right hand takes the command, as it did not do in the case of the wooden tools. This difference is of the utmost importance. This may or may not be the chief cause of the tendency to pull with all irons that I have constantly noticed is the case. This tendency has always been rather a puzzle to me, but anyhow it is not a very serious matter.

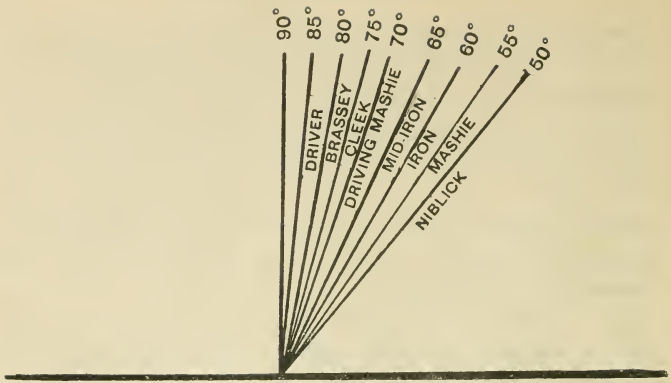
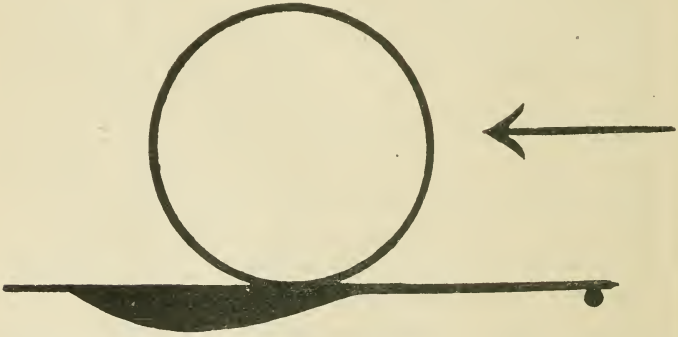


Diagram showing the angles of loft on the faces of different clubs, as measured on a standard set. See Chapter III.



The black patch represents the correct place for taking turf. The mistake is often made of taking it much more behind the ball. See page 49.

As the irons have generally shorter shafts and more upright lies the player stands closer to his ball than when he was playing with his driver and brassey. Also my own stance is more open ; that is to say, I have my right foot a little farther in front of the left when addressing the ball ; but I am not sure that I would recommend this course of procedure to the beginner. He will perhaps do better work, at the outset at all events, if he maintains the same kind of stance with most of his irons as he did in the case of his driver.

Another general feature of the play with the irons that calls for mention in these preliminary remarks is that in most cases one takes a little turf when playing the stroke. In driving the object is always to hit the ball as cleanly as possible, and the less interference the club gets from the turf the better. But it is not the same with the irons, and it will be found that in their case if the sole of the club cuts through a little piece of the turf when it is taking hold of the ball there is not only no appreciable loss in power, but a great steadying influence is obtained, and the ball flies more accurately. Many players, however, make the mistake of taking the turf too far behind the ball. It will take them some time to perform these delicate operations with any certainty of success, but when they come to have complete command over their clubs they will do well to cultivate the practice of just hitting the ball first and then driving the club through it, as it were, and taking a piece of turf from underneath it. It will be found that the flight of the ball is very steady when this is done. With this brief introduction we may pass on to the consideration of the special shots with each class of iron club.



Address with the Cleek.
See Chapter XV.

XV.

CLEEK SHOTS.

For some reason many players find the cleek a most difficult club to play with, and after years of perseverance with it they give it up and refuse to carry it in their bags, consoling themselves with the reflection that it is not much use after all, and that they can do quite as well with a driving mashie or with a straight-faced iron. They may get very good results from the latter, but I am a firm believer in the cleek, and I do not think that any man can consider himself quite proficient at the game until he has obtained a certain amount of command over it, and plays with it regularly when it seems to be the proper club for the occasion. A variety of very pretty work can be got from the cleek as can be got from no other club, and I strongly advise the beginner to persevere with its use at the outset of his career, as if he does not he may always be sorry for not having done so. I have already suggested that the object when playing with the cleek is to get a long ball, perhaps a little shorter than that which would be got with the brassey, and as straight as it is possible to get it. Many good players constantly get a distance of two hundred yards with their cleeks, but generally a hundred and seventy or thereabouts is the recognised distance for this club, and it is regularly used for one-shot holes where the one shot is a full one and the object is to place the ball as near to the pin as possible.



Top of Swing for Full Cleek Shot.
See Chapter XV.

I should explain in passing, in case it may be necessary to any very inexperienced reader, that a one-shot hole means a hole which is meant to be reached with one shot from the tee, and at which the player ought to hole out in 3 (allowing two putts), or with a little luck in 2. A 4 at such a hole represents bad play.

The cleek should be not more than an inch or two shorter than the driver, and this similarity in length tends to induce a certain amount of similarity in playing with it. Take your stance just so much nearer to the ball as is necessitated by this shorter club, so that when you are addressing you feel the same amount of comfort and confidence, and generally feel that you are able to do much the same kind of shot. As I have said, in my own play I advance the right foot a little, but I do not advise young players to begin with variations of this kind. If they find they can do better with them, well and good. Grip the club firmly with both hands.

In the upward swing the same directions should be observed as when driving. Let the wrists begin the swing, go up slowly, keep the right elbow in, and so forth, and it is just as important as ever that the body should turn on its own axis, that the head should be kept quite still, and that the eyes should be riveted on to the ball. The player must be careful not to swing the club too far away from the body, or he will find that the result is to cut or slice the ball, and a very little cut has a large effect in playing with clubs of this kind. It goes without saying that the left foot pivots and the left knee bends in the same way as when driving, but as the swing is rather shorter and more restricted they do not do so to quite the same extent. For even a full cleek shot the club should not be taken



Finish of Swing for a Full Cleek Shot.
See Chapter XV.

so far back as to make the shaft horizontal, that is to say at the top of the swing the blade of the cleek should be, rather higher than the hands. If it goes any farther than that there will be a considerable loss of control. Come down in the same way as with the driver, but tighten the wrists a little more at the time of impact—a proceeding which will be natural if it is remembered that the ball is to be hit instead of swept from the place where it rests. At the same time a warning must be given against overdoing this hit and making a stab or jerk of it, which is a fault from which many players suffer. When the ball is jerked from its lie there can be no sort of control over it, and the distance cannot be obtained. After impact the club may be allowed to finish in its own way so long as the hands and arms are kept well out so as to avoid cutting. The finish will be long or short according to the length of the backward swing.

Besides the full shot with the cleek there is the three-quarter, and while this may be carried out in the same way there is an adaptation of it which I have found to be very useful when playing against the wind. In this case I play with a more open stance, placing the right foot considerably nearer to the ball than the left. The weight is rather more on the left foot than the right, and the hands are held slightly forward, in front of the head of the club

In the upward swing the wrists and forearms are kept rather stiffer than in the playing of other shots. The former do not turn so much, and the left elbow is kept rather straighter, so that when the club is at the top of the swing it is found that the hands are farther away from the body than when a full shot was being made with either the driver or the cleek. Less



Address for Cleek Shot when playing against the Wind.
See Chapter XV.



Top of Swing for Cleek Shot when playing against the Wind.
See Chapter XV.



Finish of Cleek Shot when Playing against the Wind.
See Chapter XV.

bend is also allowed to the left knee, and there is not nearly so much pivoting on the left toe as in other cases. On the other hand, the right knee stiffens itself more, and the body is held more rigidly. The whole attitude is stiffer than usual, and it continues to be so to the finish of the stroke. The wrists and forearms bring down the club; and, as in the address, the hands are slightly in front of the blade at the time of impact, both wrists and forearms being as stiff as they can be made at this moment. After impact the right hand turns over somewhat, and an effort is made to carry the club through as close to the turf as is possible, following exactly the line of flight of the ball. This is my variation of a shot which in one form or another is played by most of the leading professionals, and one which they find extremely useful in many emergencies. It is a shot that is generally only played in fairly advanced golf, and I would recommend all beginners to leave these refinements of the game severely alone until they have mastered the more elementary shots. At the same time this is one which will be extremely useful to them when they have got fairly going, and then they may take an early opportunity of practising it.



Top of Swing for a Full Iron Shot.
See Chapter XVI.

XVI.

THE IRON.

With many players the iron is a very favourite club, and one which in their hands is made to serve all kinds of useful purposes. Moreover, it is true that the approaching distance for which the iron is specially suited is constantly being presented in the course of a round of the links, and, taking it all round, it has to be admitted that the iron is one of the most valuable occupants of the golfer's bag. It is certainly a beginner's club, because play with it is not generally found so difficult as that with either the cleek or the mashie, and it is probably the first of the iron clubs with which the young golfer exhibits any sign of proficiency. Therefore he will do well to give it special attention at the outset. I say this, although it is often found that the more a man gets on in the game the less does he require his iron, often because he finds its work a little too crude and too inexact for his liking. He frequently gets the same result in a better way from other clubs. I myself have no particular fondness for the iron, and it is very seldom that I play a full ordinary shot with it. When the distance seems to call for such a shot I generally prefer to take my cleek and play an easy half-shot with that, finding that when I do so I can keep a much straighter ball than when I have to make a full swing with the less powerful club. However, the beginner would not be well advised to



Finish of a Full Iron Shot.
See Chapter XVI.

try experiments with half-swings at the outset, and therefore he may be recommended to give careful study to the play with the club under discussion.

When he has learned to play his cleek shots he will have no particular difficulty with the iron, for it is used in a very similar manner. As the shaft of the club is shorter it will usually be necessary to stand a little nearer to the ball, and in the case of this shot it is also better to take a more open stance, that is to play with the right foot a little nearer to the ball than in the case of the shots that have already been described. Apart from this, the feet should be placed so that the ball is nearer to the line of the right heel.

Grip the club very tightly, and make the upward swing in the same manner as with the full shot with the cleek, taking care not to prolong the upward movement too far. In all shots of this kind a short swing is much better and much more reliable than a long one. The stroke is a hit stroke, as with other iron clubs, and this is to be remembered when coming down on to the ball so that the wrists are stiffened and prepared for the sharp impact. After the ball has gone I finish the stroke with the hands well up and the club turned round to the back, though it is not essential that this should be done. It merely shows that the stroke has been cleanly and freely made. At the finish of the stroke, according to the way in which I make it myself, the player should be entirely on his left leg with the right foot on its toe, and, as in the case of most other full shots, his body should have come round so that it is now facing the hole.

L OF C.

XVII.

THE RUNNING-UP SHOT.

The iron is also very frequently used for another and entirely different kind of stroke, that is to say a short running-up approach of anything up to fifty or sixty yards. On most courses there is usually a more or less formidable bunker guarding the green, and when this is the case and the golfer is approaching the hole from short range the bunker becomes a serious matter for consideration. The only shot that is possible in the circumstances is a lofted shot, and the proper thing to do this with is the mashie, as will be described shortly. But it sometimes happens that there is either no bunker, or that the previous shot has just cleared it but has still left a fair amount of ground to be covered before the pin is reached. Many players in these days have got so accustomed to the belief that the mashie is the only thing to do any kind of approach work with that they still use it in circumstances of this kind; but a running-up shot with a less lofted club is far preferable and, executed by a man who knows what he is doing, is likely to give far better results. There is a much better chance of laying the ball near to the hole when running-up than when pitching with the mashie, and it is a shot which gives scope for any amount of skill, so that the tendency in these days is to make holes with fewer bunkers in front of them so as to give more opportunities for this running-up

The object of the stroke is just to lift the ball clear of the ground until the putting green is reached, or nearly, and then to let it drop there and finish with a little run up to the pin. It is obvious that for this purpose very little loft is needed on the club, and indeed the less there is on it the better, so that while the iron is often used—perhaps more generally so than any other club—many players get better results and are able to gauge the shot with much more accuracy by using a club with a straighter blade, such as a straight-faced iron, which they may carry in their bags, or even a cleek. The method of making the stroke is very simple.

The player must stand very straight up and take a firm and fairly open stance, with the ball rather more in a line with the right heel than usual. The swing will be a very short affair, since very little propulsion is necessary in order to make the ball travel such a short distance. Exactly what length of swing to give will naturally vary with the distance to be traversed, and the player must be left to find out in practice what swing to give for each particular shot, and need only be recommended always to try to get his distance exactly by swinging exactly instead of by swinging almost the same distance each time and regulating the force that he puts into the stroke. In a general way it will be found that even for a fairly long run up it will not be necessary to swing the blade of the club more than elbow high ; and, this being so, the body should be kept very stiff and steady, and the left knee should bend in towards the right but a very little, the heel scarcely coming off the ground. In finishing the stroke the wrists should be kept fairly stiff, and after impact the right hand should turn over slightly while the head of the club should sweep along close to the ground and finish low down

pointing to the hole. Of course for a shot of this character no turf is to be taken. The ball should be hit as cleanly and accurately as possible, and the player must guard against a tendency that will assert itself to look up towards the hole before he has actually struck the ball ; in fact, the rule about keeping the eye on the ball has to be insisted upon more than ever when the short game is being played, because it is then that it is most commonly broken. In many respects this delicate running-up shot is a miniature of the three-quarter forcing shot with the cleek as already described.

XVIII.

THE MASHIE.

This is a club that generally gives the young golfer a good deal of trouble, though there is no great reason why it should do so, and the cause as a rule is merely over-anxiety. The hole is close at hand, and there is commonly a hazard of some kind intervening which will catch the ball if the least thing goes wrong, and thus spoil the whole of what may have been very good play up to that point. I need say no more concerning the club than that it should have a fair amount of weight in it, and should have a strong shaft in which there must be no tendency to whip. Spring in the shaft is all very well in the case of some clubs, but it is quite out of place in a mashie. There are many different patterns of blades, and it is not much use recommending any particular one of them to the player, because as soon as he gets on in the game he is almost certain to exhibit a preference of his own in this respect. However, one may recommend him not to overdo the loft on his club, as, however much it may be necessary to get the ball up, it must not be forgotten that it is also necessary to take well hold of it, and there may be a difficulty in doing this when the face of the club is laid back at too great an angle.

There are generally understood to be two kinds of shots with the mashie—a very full mashie which is similar to an iron



Address for Approach Stroke with Mashie.
See Chapter XVIII.

shot, and only differs from it in that the ball is carried a shorter distance and goes up higher, so that it comes down with less run—all this being mostly due to the club—and the short-pitching shot, in which the ball is just lifted straight up into the air to come down again a very little distance in front with next to no run on it. The former may be employed when the ball is somewhere about eighty yards from the hole, and the latter usually comes in most frequently at about forty or fifty. In reality there is not much difference between the strokes except in degree—that is to say in the length of the swing and consequently the force with which the ball is hit.

The stance for the mashie shot differs slightly from that which was taken in the case of the iron. It should always be very open, and the right foot is consequently well advanced, while the ball is placed in a line about midway between the feet. For my own part I believe in holding the hands very low down—at practically the full stretch of the arms—so that the heel of the club is on the turf and the toe is slightly raised. This course of procedure seems to help the club to get under the ball better. At the same time the player should stand very close to the ball, and he should grip the club very tightly. It is essential that throughout this stroke he should have a very firm grip.

In making the upward swing it has to be borne in mind that as it is required to pitch the ball up, and as one of the means of doing this is to come down very straight on to it, the club should be carried very straight up when it is being taken away from the ball. The best way of doing this, and at the same time of preserving that semi-rigidity which is essential to good mashie play, is to allow the wrists and



Top of Swing when Approaching with the Mashie.
See Chapter XVIII.

forearms to do nearly all the work; and this is generally recognised to be the proper method. The arms are allowed to bend slightly from the elbows, and the right elbow is kept well in to the body. While there should be a fair amount of slackness and play in the legs to begin with, the knees being allowed to bend considerably, there should be very little movement in either feet or legs while the stroke is being made. The left knee may bend in very slightly towards the right toe, but the heel should scarcely be raised from the ground, and there should be nothing in the nature of pivoting. In this way the body will not be allowed to turn very much, and it is important that it should not be allowed to do so. The more rigidly it is held the better. As for the distance to which the club is taken back, this must necessarily depend on the length of the shot which it is required to make, but it should be very seldom necessary when using the mashie to go much beyond the perpendicular, and when a player does so he is probably asking rather more of the club than he ought to do.

As usual the downward swing is a repetition of the upward one, and there is little to say about it that will not be evident to the player by this time. He must take care to carry the club well through in the direction of the hole, and not to hug it in towards him just after impact—a fault which is very much in evidence with some players and which completely ruins the shot. In finishing one does not allow the body to turn round towards the hole quite so much as with other shots with iron clubs, and consequently the right knee does not turn in so much. The club should finish about as high up as it was taken in the backward swing. It is of great im-



Finish of Approach Shot with the Mashie.
See Chapter XVIII.

portance to impress upon the young golfer who is not thoroughly acquainted with mashie play that it is not necessary for him to do anything in particular except obey the simple instruction for swinging the club as here laid down in order to make the ball pitch up in the required manner. If the club is swung properly the loft on its face will get the ball up quite sufficiently for any purpose, and when the player gets trying to assist the club in this direction by wriggling his hands about when making the stroke and endeavouring in some peculiar manner to jerk the ball up there is sure to be trouble. In itself mashie play is not so very difficult after all, but many players contrive to make it so.

There are one or two other kinds of approach shots, chiefly that in which a little cut is applied to the mashie stroke in order to make the ball stop more dead than usual when it alights on the green, but the beginner had better not attempt them. They are not easy, and it will be quite time enough for him to try his skill at this sort of thing when he has had at least a year or two's practice. Besides they are not often wanted. Remember that with all mashie shots a little turf should always be taken. It is next to impossible to play them well without, but the turf must be taken at the right time and in the right place.



Stance and Address for Bunker Stroke with Niblick.
See Chapter XIX.

XIX.

THE NIBLICK.

This is a heavy club with a deep face and much laid back for the special purpose of making the ball rise very quickly over some obstruction immediately in front. The use to which the niblick is most frequently applied is to get the player out of bunkers and other difficult places to which his bad shots have taken him, and as a rule it is about the only club that is practicable in the circumstances. The golfer should make a point, however, of asking himself when he has got into a bunker whether any other club than the niblick is possible in the situation that is presented. Some players get so much into the habit of taking their niblick quite mechanically when in bunkers that they miss many good opportunities of making far better recoveries than is possible with it, for it occasionally happens that the ball is lying quite well and at a fair distance from the face of a low bunker, in which circumstances it might be quite easy to get in a good shot with a mashie, or even now and then with an iron or driving mashie. However, while pointing out this possibility, it is never to be forgotten that after all the first thing to be thought of when one has got into a bunker is to make sure of getting out in one stroke, and therefore a club should never be taken which the player is not quite certain is equal to the task in hand.



Top of Swing for Bunker Stroke with Niblick. Note the Upright Character of the Swing. See Chapter XIX.



Finish of Bunker Stroke with Niblick.
See Chapter XIX



Address for an Approach with the Niblick.
See Chapter XIX.

The method of playing the niblick for a bunker shot is very similar to that of the mashie. It will often happen that the player has not very much choice in the matter of stance, and will at times have to put up with some very unorthodox positions; but when he has as much choice as he wants, he will take a medium open stance and have the ball fairly well towards his right foot. In the upward swing he should hold the club very tightly and take it up very straight and rather high. In the case of this shot he must not keep his eyes on the ball during the swing, but on the sand an inch or so behind it, and he must bring the club down on to this place in the sand so that it will drive its way through it and underneath the ball, giving it such a lift up as would be possible in no other way. Generally when a ball is played out of a bunker in this way the club does not even touch it. There need be no attempt to finish the stroke, which naturally comes to an end when the club is ploughing its way through the sand underneath the ball. The player may be recommended not to lose sight of any advantage that is to be gained by playing the ball at an angle across the face of the bunker instead of straight in front. When this can be done it will be seen that the shot is rendered much less difficult through its not being necessary to make the ball rise so quickly, and the player may be spared the exasperation of seeing the ball rise to within an inch of the top of the bunker, but then hit it and come flopping back into the sand very probably in a worse lie than before. Bunker shots are worth far more practice than is given to them. No player is ever so perfect that he does not get into bunkers sometimes, and it will be an enormous gain to him if he cultivates the power of getting



Top of Swing in an Approach with the Niblick.
See Chapter XIX.



Finish of Approach with Niblick.
See Chapter XIX.

well out of them in one shot when these misfortunes occur to him.

Although the average player so seldom thinks of them, there are other uses for the niblick besides bunker shots, and one of them is for short approaches to which it is desired to apply a considerable amount of loft and when it is necessary to stop the ball very dead indeed, as soon as it comes down to the turf. For this kind of work the heavy head of the niblick with its large amount of loft is very well suited, and in the hands of some players some perfectly marvellous work can be got out of it. In many respects the niblick shot played in this way fulfils all the functions of the cut mashie. For some time past I have been using a niblick with an unusually large face, which I find better than the ordinary niblicks for all purposes.

XX.

PUTTING.

It happens, unfortunately, that concerning one department of the game that will cause the golfer some anxiety from time to time, and often more when he is experienced than when he is not, neither I nor any other player can offer any words of instruction such as, if closely acted upon, would give the same successful results as the advice tendered under other heads ought to do. This is in regard to putting.

In one respect putting is the simplest thing in golf, inasmuch as there is no complicated swing to make and to be continually getting out of order ; but, as everybody of experience knows, the making of the final strokes on the putting green in the endeavour to get the little white ball into the hole at last, is the most difficult and trying task imaginable, and the one which is most constantly disappointing. It is impossible to tell a man what to do in order to putt the ball into the hole. He must find out for himself, and make himself into as good a putter as he can by constant practice. Much may be done by this constant practice, and bad putters have been turned into good ones ; but really great putters are probably born and not made, and some astonishing results have been obtained by the veriest beginners. It is quite possible that many people may putt better in the early part of their experience than later on, for they may think it



Braid's Stance and Address when Putting.
See Chapter XX.

easier than it really is, and thus have plenty of confidence, and there is nothing like confidence in putting.

However, while one cannot tell a player how exactly to putt a ball into the hole from any given distance, and while also it would be unwise to direct him to take any particular stance for putting, believing that the man is best off in this department who does things in that way which comes most natural to him and in which he is most comfortable, there are certain general principles which it would be very dangerous and possibly disastrous to disobey, and which may be mentioned here. In the first place, putting is an extremely delicate operation, and calls for the most careful gauging of strength and direction in the stroke. This being so, it is obvious that if the body moves in the least the whole of the delicate calculation must necessarily be upset, and really fine putting be made an impossibility. Therefore the body must be kept absolutely still, and the head also quite motionless. Generally it must be done by the hands and wrists only, and the right hand is the one to putt with, the other merely holding and steadying the club. It is palpably necessary that the very utmost steadiness in swinging the club must be constantly displayed. Nervous, shaky, wobbly taps are useless.

Also, the stroke must be a smooth and easy one, just as much so as any other stroke in the game, and the player must guard against getting into the habit of stabbing his ball. This is a common mistake; but when it is made the regulation of strength and direction is most difficult. The club must be brought on to the ball in a nice even sweep, and it should follow-through properly. As in other strokes the swing should be regulated precisely according to the distance to which it



Finish of Putting Stroke, indicating an easy Follow-through Style.
See Chapter XX.

is desired to putt the ball. A great deal depends on hitting the ball quite truly on the proper place on the club, and to ensure this, care must be taken to keep the eye on the ball until the stroke has been made. The tendency to take it off and look up at the hole before the ball has been started on its journey is greater in the case of putting than anything else, and it is fatal every time.

As to stance, I myself think there is a great deal to be said for a very open stance, and this is one with which I play, having the ball nearly opposite my right toe ; but I would hesitate to lay down any definite rule in the matter. The beginner may be left to experiment for himself. Also he may be left to experiment with putters, as it is in the farthest degree unlikely that he will be satisfied with the first one that he buys. He will think that he will be able to putt better and save more holes if he buys a new one, and this may happen several times before he has a real favourite of his own. I might hint again, however, that I think there is something to be said for having one kind of putter to run up with and another for holing out from a short distance. The importance of making a most careful study of the line of every putt cannot be too strongly impressed upon the player. If there are undulations of the green to be dealt with they cannot be considered too carefully or the calculations made too exactly, for the ball is exceedingly sensitive to them. It is sometimes even necessary to make wide allowances for undulations that are scarcely perceptible, and this is specially the case when greens are fast. There is a wise maxim "Never up, never in," and it may only be added that it is better to be a foot beyond the hole than six inches on the near side of it.

XXI.

PLAYING THE ROUND.

We have thus made a short study of all the leading strokes in the game, and by the time the player is able to make them with any kind of complete knowledge as to how they should all be done, even if he cannot make them properly, he will be playing his rounds against opponents, and ought to be a constantly improving golfer.

In regard to playing a round as a whole there are one or two points that it may be wise to mention here. To play the ball from the tee to the hole is never quite such a simple business as it looks if it is to be done properly and the hole won or halved with an opponent. The player will find it to be necessary to play with his head all the time, and one of the first things that he will have to learn, and one which he will find of use all through his career is when to take risks and when not to. The mere beginner should never take risks, that is to say he should never attempt shots which he imagines may be beyond his powers, because he will be doing much to spoil the style he is forming for himself and get himself into very bad habits. Let him content himself with making the shots in an easy and comfortable way, and being as certain about them as he can be.

But the time will come when the question will present itself acutely to him as to whether he shall attempt a shot which he thinks is quite likely to fail, in the hope of gaining

some great advantage if it comes off. In these circumstances it is simply a question of profit and loss, and the player must make a careful calculation as to which is, on the whole, the more profitable policy. It may happen that a very desperate shot is the only one to save the match; in that case it is the obvious duty of the player to go for it. If a man is two down with three to play, he must take risks with nearly every stroke; but if he is two up with three to play he must risk nothing. Again, if his opponent has played the odd or two more, he himself will naturally play a safer game than if he were the party playing the odd or two more. In any case no stroke should ever be made without a full consideration of all the various contingencies that are possible. Heedless, haphazard players never get on in the game.

They may not find it an easy thing to arrange, but whenever possible the young player should strive to arrange his match with better players than himself. He may not win so many of them; but they will do his game a lot of good, and will pull him out as nothing else will. He should be chary of accepting advice from players who are not much better than himself; but from really good golfers he may learn much, and he should always be very observant, for probably more players have learned to play a very fine game through watching others play it than in any other way. Until he has got very far advanced the player should from time to time take a lesson from his original tutor, who will often cure him of faults into which he is dropping, perhaps unconsciously, and give him some new hint which in his then state of experience will be very timely and valuable. He will find it very good practice to go out occasionally with only one club,

that one being one with which he has a lot of trouble. He will discover that he can do more in the way of breaking himself into it in one hour in this way than he would do in a month by simply using the club when it came to its turn in ordinary match play.

Finally, let me recommend the young player to obtain the fullest knowledge of the rules of the game and of its etiquette, so that he may never be in ignorance of the former and never be guilty of a breach of the latter, which is the worst fault a golfer can commit. He will soon learn that it is his first duty to replace the turf which is cut out in the act of playing, and he must realise that it is not enough merely to throw the turf down on the spot from where it was cut. The object of replacing is not to cover up the gash made, but to give the turf a chance to grow again, as it will do if properly laid back. The operation should therefore be performed carefully, and the turf properly and thoroughly patted back into its place with the foot. The etiquette of golf simply consists in showing a proper regard for the convenience and pleasure of others, and therefore for the good of the game. There are many ways in which this may be done, and in which alas! it is too often left undone. For example, when a player has visited a bunker and made large marks in the sand with his heels or his club, it behoves him to fill them up carefully and rake the sand with his club before going on. If he does not, some other player's ball may be penalised most cruelly and unfairly by going into those heel or club marks.

If the golfer always does to others as he would be done by he will find his life on the links very much pleasanter than it would be otherwise.

XXII.

THROUGH THE YEAR.

He is the best golfer who best adapts himself to varying conditions: that is a principle which there is no gainsaying. The man who learns to adapt himself in this way is certain to come by as great improvement in his game, and he will enjoy it more. Yet one finds the general run of golfers give little thought to such questions, and go on playing the same kind of game without the slightest variations, from the beginning of the year to the end of it, through all the rain and winds of winter and spring, and the heat and hard courses of summer, back again to the wet of the end of the season.

I should be the last in the world to countenance any unnecessary fiddling about with one's game or trying "fancy" experiments more for the sake of satisfying one's curiosity than for any other reason, when the player's style and his methods have not become thoroughly settled down; but this is a quite different thing from exercising a careful discrimination and using one's intelligence to the utmost extent when conditions present themselves with which one is less familiar than usual, or with which one has not been confronted for some weeks or months, besides which it does not at all follow that the shots which are suggested at such times have anything of a "fancy" character about them. I will offer very briefly a few suggestions which may cause some golfer to take a less superficial view of the demands which the change of seasons make upon their capacity, and which may

lead them to a private study of situations which will be all to their benefit as players of the game which, to my mind, requires more constant thought than any other field pastime.

Golf may be the same game in winter as in summer, but it is quite certain that in some respects it needs different treatment, and the changes in this treatment will vary according to the man and the place where he plays the game. Now, to begin at the beginning, the early part of the year in this country finds us in the depth of winter, when courses are for the most part heavy and difficult, putting greens sluggish, when there are high winds prevalent; when, speaking generally, lies are not so good as at other times: the ball has little flight and less run, and doing holes in par is a more difficult task than at other times.

One of the first questions I would suggest that the golfer should ask himself is, whether the clubs that he uses all through the dry season are the best possible for this one. I do not believe in having too many clubs, or in making changes in them without good reason; but it is evident that the club that is mainly designed to pick up a ball from a good lie may not be so well adapted as another one for picking it up from a bad lie. In this matter our consideration is at once, and chiefly, attracted to the brassey, and it is a common complaint among golfers on inland courses in winter-time, especially those which are laid in suburban districts and on a clayey soil, as they so often are, that their brasseys are very little use to them, and that nearly every time they attempt to play a shot with them they are met with failure. In many cases such players—and wisely from their point of view—give up the use of their brasseys altogether until the conditions improve, and take to playing their long shots through the green with driving mashies or heavy irons,

which, though more effectual, are very unsatisfactory clubs when there are distances of between two or three hundred yards between the ball and the hole to which the play is being directed.

It is quite evident that the brassey which has a flat sole, and a fairly long one at that, as most brasseys have, being designed to take the ball as cleanly as possible, is very poorly adapted for play when the ball has fallen heavily without run, and has made a small cup for itself in the very soft turf. It is impossible to get at the ball with such a club without digging very heavily into the turf, and in such circumstances any good and satisfactory kind of stroke is an impossibility.

Now what I recommend for winter play on such soft courses as this, where proper brassey lies are very seldom obtained, is a special kind of brassey, rather long and shallow in the face and with a curved sole. The curved sole is the chief feature, for a moment's consideration will make it plain that when the ball is taken at the middle and lowest part of the sole, as it ought to be, this part can get fairly well under the ball and get properly hold of it, without the remaining part doing any digging, and thus you will have all the advantages of playing with a club with a head and face very little wider than the ball and none of the disadvantages, and with it many full brassey shots are possible and easy which would be quite impracticable with an ordinary brassey. This type of club, which is very seldom seen in a golfer's bag, is really one of the most useful clubs that he can carry, and it can be made of excellent service on many other occasions besides this one, though I consider that its chief merit lies in its application to wet and very soft courses in such circumstances as I have described.

It may be just as well also to remind the player that in a

general way clubs with deep faces are not so well adapted to playing low-lying balls, which it is difficult to get up properly, as are clubs with shallow faces. The principle, of course, is not a binding one; but, generally speaking, shallow-faced clubs give more rise to a ball than deep-faced ones, as they come to operate more on the under side of the ball.

When the course is very wet and sticky, it should also be borne in mind the run of the ball is generally very tricky, and it follows from this that it is as well to dispense with run as much as possible in the playing of approach shots, that is to say, that the ball should be kept up, and pitching resorted to rather than running up, although I am a strong advocate of playing the running-up shot in preference to the other type on every possible occasion when circumstances warrant it. But it is no use adhering to the run-up shot if you cannot have the slightest dependence on the run of the ball when the life is dying out of it.

Then, of course, the winter and the early spring are the times of high winds, and there is nothing that more completely baffles a golfer of small experience, or one who is not accustomed to think deeply and theorize to a considerable extent, than a strong wind, no matter from what quarter of the compass the wind comes. It is of great importance that every player should make himself thoroughly acquainted with the best methods of dealing with winds, and he will find a little study in this department of the game more remunerative to him than, perhaps, any other. It generally happens that, in the absence of such thought and study, some of his notions on the subject are of the crudest possible description and often quite the reverse of accurate. For example, many players, if asked what was the best way of

playing so as to make the best of a wind coming from the right side or the left, would say that in the former case the proper thing to do would be to slice the ball so that it would fight against the wind force; while when the wind came from the right the reverse procedure should be followed, that is to say, the ball should be pulled. Generally, however, not being able either to slice or pull at will, they content themselves with playing an ordinary shot and making wind allowance, which is certainly better than doing what they say would be the proper thing if they were only able to do it. If they sliced against a wind coming from the right they might certainly keep their ball straight, but they would at the same time practically kill its flight and get the very shortest carry, because the wind and the slice would be fighting against each other all the way, and the energy of the ball would be completely exhausted in the process.

The proper thing to do in such a case would be not to slice and treat the wind as an enemy, but to make a friend of it, and after making a very large allowance in the direction in which the stroke is aimed, to pull the ball. You would play the stroke sharply away to the right with a lot of pull, and then by the time it came round it would shoot away towards the hole with the wind much more in its favor than against it. In this way not only would the wind not be adverse, but it is possible many times to get longer balls than could be obtained if there were no wind at all, and, besides, playing a shot in this way opens up great opportunities for playing for position and making the wind of great service if a short approach shot has to be played. Thus, if it is evident that such a shot will have to be made, the wise player will naturally try to steer his ball so that if the wind is across he will have it against him for the little shot that has to

follow, particularly if a hazard will have to be cleared and a high shot will be called for.

Pitching can be much more accurately performed when there is a wind to play against than when it will follow the ball and take it goodness knows where. The great effect of wind on short, delicate shots is very often too little appreciated.

Even when playing straight up or straight down wind players often go about their strokes without thinking sufficiently. It is above all things necessary at such times to remember that to all intents and purposes they are playing on a different course from the one that they play over when there is no wind to speak of. As the length of all the shots is seriously affected, so the hazards are in different places in relation to them, and this fact must be fully weighed when calculating the play to a hole, and even in the case of straight winds like these it may often pay very much better not to play straight at the hole but sideways, so that an easier stroke may be presented for the second than would otherwise be the case.

Also it will be a very good thing for the player's game if he will make himself thoroughly acquainted with the best-known methods of playing high and low, according as to whether the wind is in his favor or against him. Commonly his ideas consist exclusively of varying the height of his tee; but this is a very incomplete sort of device, and as a matter of fact when a low shot is played properly and in the most scientific way a low tee is not needed, and I prefer a tolerably high one so that the ball may be taken quite cleanly. When playing down wind it will be a good thing if a player keeps in mind the simple rule that his weight should be well on his right foot and the ball teed away a little more to the left than usual, and that when he is

playing up wind the reverse procedure should be adopted, that is, the weight should be thrown on to the left foot, and the ball should be teed to the right, or the stance arranged accordingly if it is a brassey shot and not a tee shot that has to be played.

Remember that when playing in the rain the latter has naturally a depressing tendency on the ball and throws it down sooner than it would otherwise fall, and allowances must be made for this fact in the preliminary calculation of the carry that has to be obtained. At this time of day I need not repeat the warning as to the danger of playing with rubber grips in wet weather, when it is almost impossible to keep the hands tight on the club; but I may mention that a very good thing to wear to enable one to keep a tight grip, when the handles of the clubs are wet, are common cotton gloves, which I have used for this purpose on many occasions with great satisfaction.

Another useful hint is that when the weather is very cold and the hands are apt to become numbed with it—and no player can play his proper game when his hands are in this state—is to wear woollen knitted cuffs over the wrists. These serve as a protection to the blood veins that feed the hands, and the effect in many cases is truly wonderful.

So much by way of a few suggestions as to Golf when it is wet, windy, and cold, as in the winter-time. Now let us just briefly take into consideration the reverse conditions, such as obtain in the summer-time when long spells of sunshine and heat make the courses not only very fast, but, what is more difficult to deal with, very hard.

The one great thing to remember is that when links are in such a state as this, it is absolutely necessary that the ball should at all times be taken cleanly, especially in the case of second

shots with wooden clubs. When the turf is fairly soft and yielding there is usually some small latitude allowable in the matter of taking the ball cleanly with the brassey, and a slightly greater latitude in the case of iron shots, that is to say, a more or less satisfactory kind of shot can be got in when the ball is not taken to the eighth of an inch in the place where it ought to be, although even in such circumstances a shot is never so sweet and effective as when the ball is taken quite accurately.

But when the ground is hard, it is an exceedingly dangerous thing not to take the ball quite cleanly, for in the case of brassey play the tendency is for the head of the club to be jerked upwards on touching the turf behind the ball and to result in the ball being topped and generally foozled instead of being taken hold of well underneath, as would have been the case if the turf had been at all yielding. In the case of iron shots the head of the club is frequently twisted, and the force of the stroke is completely broken if the player evinces the smallest disposition to take turf.

The moral is obvious—that when courses are hard the ball must be taken clearly in the case of every shot possible, even in the case of the short-pitched approaches. It is not an easy thing to do; but it is too often assumed that the Golf for the time being is spoiled by its being necessary. It is most excellent training, for the generality of golfers pay too little attention to perfectly clean hitting, and it is not too much to say that a very large proportion of them could drive farther if they cultivated the habit of taking the ball a trifle higher up, which is just what golfing on hard courses in July and August will teach them to do.

One of two special hints I would offer to them. It is likely

that in most cases when cultivating the most perfectly clean hitting under these circumstances of the most absolute necessity, they may with advantage swing back a little more slowly than usual. This will conduce to accuracy, and will not probably lead to any reduction in length.

In the second place, it is of the utmost importance in cultivating the proper hitting of the ball to focus the eye upon one particular part of the ball, and for general purposes that part is the side of the ball and not the top or the bottom of it. Most players on being asked what part of the ball they look at when swinging their clubs at it, would be obliged to answer that they have no particular spot, but look at the ball in general. The result is that there is a lack of concentration of thought and purpose in making the stroke, which is all against any certainty of success.

In many cases when the times comes to make full shots from low-lying balls on very hard turf, I think the player might serve himself well by making use of the same curved-sole brassey that I recommended for winter play, for it will easily be understood that it must have a tendency to promite clean hitting.

In the warm and dry season putting greens become hard and fast, and though, generally speaking, putting is then better and truer than at other times, it is none the less the fact that it is often more difficult, since the greens are so full of tricks and it is difficult to control the ball when dealing with slopes of any kind except upward ones. The only suggestion I have to make in this matter is that it is a convenient time for the golfer to ask himself the question as to whether there is any good reason why he should consider himself a slave to the same putter all the year round, and whether it is not conceivable that what may

be splendidly adapted to the slow winter greens, when the ball wants punching up to the hole, is not so well adapted to the putting greens of summer, when the most delicate touches are all that are needed.

A very little thought will bring one to the conclusion that a little loft on the putter is a good thing for fast greens, and this brings me to make the suggestion that a large proportion of players might do very much better at such times if they putted with a common straight-faced iron instead of a putter. Too many of them seem to think that they are going in for a kind of freak golf, or essaying something enormously difficult, if they adopt any measures of this kind, whereas the procedure is obviously proper and is comparatively simple.

Whenever the circumstances of the bunkering of the course permit, I believe in all short approaches to the hole being run up when the course is hard, instead of being pitched. From nearly every point of view the pitch shot is difficult and unreliable in dry, hot weather, whereas the run-up is exactly suited to such circumstances, and some wonderfully effective work can be performed by its means. Some people are disposed to sneer at it and say that it is not a true golfing shot. The only thing to say in reply is that it is as much a golfing shot as any other, and a great deal more of one than most others, and that it tests the skill and accuracy of a player as scarcely any other shot in the game does.

The question with many players is what to play these run-up shots with. No definite rule is to be laid down, and the circumstances have always to be taken into consideration, while a great latitude may be allowed for individual preferences. Almost all clubs, from the cleek to the mashie, are used by different players.

One might say that such a well-lofted club as the mashie is not advisable, inasmuch as in the case of a long run-up the run of the ball is too short and undependable when it is employed. A fairly straight-faced iron is a most excellent thing, while for my own purposes I use a fairly well-lofted approaching cleek, which is weighted just behind the hitting part with a good-sized lump of metal, which gives a feeling of solidity to the touch, and seems to me to help towards delicacy.



FIG. 1. ADDRESSING THE BALL. HARRY VARDON.

HARRY VARDON TELLS HOW TO PLAY GOLF

THE DRIVE.

Cultivate a good style. Style may not be of the greatest importance which some veterans insist on, but few will deny that a good style is a distinct advantage to a man who wishes to become a good player.

The beginner having got his clubs, we would advise him in commencing the game to go to some good professional and put himself in his hands for a couple of hours at a time. See that your instructor is built pretty much on the same lines as yourself. It seems to me to be absurd for a big, heavy-built man to take lessons from a little, slim boy, who can tie himself in a knot and swing, and yet come back perfectly steady on his feet just as he hits the ball, and expect to do the same yourself with about 100 pounds more flesh covering your muscles. You will be told that all good drivers and professionals have the same theory in driving, and that they merely obtain the same results by putting those theories into practice in a different manner, but the fact remains that we are naturally imitative and we really arrive at some fixed way of standing to address a ball, not by being put in a particular position and having our arms raised in a particular way, but by observing someone else do what we are trying to learn. And it stands to reason that if a man will observe a player driving whose build is similar to his own, it will be much easier for him to imitate the player and consequently much quicker to obtain the desired results.

As it is not always within the means of all beginners (for various reasons) to have the advantage of coaching by a competent instructor, a few hints given here may not be amiss.



FIG. 2. FINISH OF SWING. HARRY VARDON.

The first thing to engage your attention then, as you stand upon the tee ready to begin, is to see that you sole your club properly, i. e., allow the club head to rest flat on the ground immediately behind the ball. This is called soling the club or giving a club its only lie. At the same time see that the face or the part of the club intended to strike the ball is held at a perfect right angle to the direction in which you intend to play for. Having done that, then stand in a perfectly parallel line to the intended direction with both feet aligned, care being taken to see that you do not have the right foot dragging behind the left. This will make of the line of the ball and the position of your feet two perfectly parallel lines.

Now stand perfectly easy, with the feet firmly set upon the ground. Don't be tense, but hold yourself as relaxed as you possibly can, your main object being to stand in such a way that when you swing you will bring your club straight and squarely behind the ball in describing the circle, and follow through in the direct line for the object aimed at, viz., the hole, with the least possible exertion to yourself. Should you on the contrary seek to stand with the right foot behind the line of the left one, and which by the way is the stance most commonly adopted by beginners, your follow through will not be as free as it should be, the tendency being to press the club through with the right hand, and resulting in a slice or a pull, according to how the ball is hit, at the same time finishing your stroke with both legs crossed—not a very stylish finish by any means, and apt to make the player lose his equilibrium.

Having got some idea of how to stand, and also as to allowing your club to sole properly, the very next step in order is the position of the ball, i. e., where shall it be teed? Of course many men have many styles, and while one can see a few players tee their ball near the right foot, the vast majority tee very nearly opposite the left. And this is the position we would advise beginners to adopt as being one of the best. Our reasons are these: As the player about to play grasps the club he, as a rule, holds it with the left hand on top, the right being under.



FIG. 3. STANCE FOR THREE-QUARTER STROKE
HARRY VARDON

This naturally makes the left arm exactly the width of the hand longer than the right one. Consequently in seeking to swing the club correctly the head will reach the bottom of the arc in describing the circle when it comes in a straight line with the longest arm, or left shoulder. As this is purely an arm-and-shoulder movement, the left shoulder is thus necessarily the axis of the swing. Following this theory out, the beginner will then see, as he stands with his feet apart ready to make the stroke, that his left shoulder is almost in perfect line, vertically, with his left heel, and that if the ball is teed in line with the same, the plane of the axis maintained, he must assuredly connect with the ball at the proper moment.

The great trouble with most beginners when commencing to play is that almost invariably they commit one of two faults. One of them is that when lifting the club to the shoulder in preparing for the downward sweep they are apt to raise the body ever so slightly as they raise the club. The consequence is that the ball is topped, if not missed, altogether. The other is the act of swaying the body away from the ball, thus again changing the plane of the axis, with the result that the head of the club comes in contact with Mother Earth many inches behind where the ball is teed. Keep then the head and body as steady as you can, always remembering that the arms and shoulders will do all that is necessary in getting away a good ball.

Another point to aid the beginner here in judging whether he is doing right according to this theory is to see that when he is addressing the ball the shoulder, hands and the head of the club will be in a perfectly straight line at right angles to the direction of the hole.

Of course there are exceptions to the general rule of teeing of the left foot, such as upon getting a hanging lie or when there is a dead head wind blowing, but as the beginner is only at the tee just yet, we will let this suffice for the present.

Now we come to the grip. How to hold the club. Grasp the club firmly about an inch from the top of the shaft, with the fingers of the left hand, being careful to see that the knuckles



FIG. 4. HALF-SHOT, TOP OF SWING
HARRY VARDON

point in the direction of the proposed flight of the ball. Then allow the right hand to come as close to the left as possible, but holding as loosely as consistent with safety in the fingers of the right. This grip, the beginner can see, is that the shaft is allowed to lie in the second and third joints of the fingers, and that the hands are allowed to close over. Never, upon any account, grasp the shaft in the palms of the hands, as if you do you will lock the joints of the wrists, and they will not be able to respond in rythym with the swing of the club.

Having got these ideas firmly in his mind, the beginner can now try and execute the preliminary "waggle." The ideal waggle consists in a gentle swaying to and fro, once or twice only, of the club over the ball and in the same vertical plane as the arc which the head of the club ought to describe in the actual stroke. Waggle with your wrists only. Let the club head rest again for a moment behind the ball before making your upward swing (a golfing drive is not a hit; it is distinctly and absolutely a swing), and have your hands well down, about on a level with your lowest waist button. Swing your club back to a horizontal position behind the head, never for a second taking your eye off the ball, allowing the body to turn gently with its weight upon the right foot, raising the left heel slightly off the ground, a perfectly natural motion. Keep the head of your club perfectly steady and let your upward and downward swing be practically one motion. Your body, your arms, in fact your whole frame, should, at the moment of striking the ball, be in the same position precisely as when you addressed the ball. Let your club head follow the ball in its flight as far as you possibly can, finishing up, if possible, where you commenced, as in Fig. 2. If the beginner has ever swung Indian clubs, it will be all the easier for him to master, as it is practically the same in theory, giving the club the impetus and allowing the wrists to carry it through. Two lessons with a competent instructor should allow the veriest novice to get on to the hang of it.

The following is an expression of opinion from Vardon, present champion, one of the best drivers in the world, on "driving":



FIG. 5. STIFF ARM APPROACH, THE ADDRESS
HARRY VARDON

"Many things on which we differ are of little or no importance, and the various opinions can be experimented on by the tyro without running the risk of incurring much hurt, but there are other things about which it will be wise for him to find out from more experienced players the reasons for and against, and then make a choice of what appears to be best, and persevere in thinking it so, despite conflicting opinions. While there is no reason why any one should not become a good player who follows out the advice given by 'Badminton,' there are reasons why they cannot follow that advice, though they may try very hard to do so. The great drawback to those who would learn to play golf without having a professional adviser at their side is that they cannot see themselves as others see them. Could they do so, they would soon become aware of how poorly they are reproducing the swing of which they have read, and how certainly they are contracting habits which cannot fail to be detrimental to their progress. I think, therefore, that every one who is ambitious of becoming a golfer will do well at the outset to seek professional tuition. A few lessons then would probably be more useful than a great many after the faults referred to have been acquired. My manner of playing is different from either that of Dunn or 'Badminton.' To begin with the 'stance:' Instead of having my right foot to the rear I keep it some three or four inches in advance. This, I think, to be best, for it allows the body to follow much more freely after the swing in the direction of the intended flight of the ball. The weight of the body I throw mostly on to the right foot, not transferring it until the ball is being struck. By this means the body remains comparatively still during the backward swing, thus adding impetus to the flight of the ball. If the weight of the body be thrown mostly on the left leg when addressing the ball, during the backward swing, it has to be transferred to the right and back again with the downward stroke, thereby making, as it seems to me, the aim less steady.

"The position of the ball is as nearly as possible in the centre of the two feet.

"At the top of the swing my club is as nearly horizontal as pos-



FIG. 6. STIFF ARM APPROACH, CLUB AT TOP OF SWING
HARRY VARDON

sible. I grasp as firmly as possible with both hands throughout the swing for every shot. I am aware that the general belief is contrary to this, especially in the driving, but the fact remains that I find it very satisfactory, and there are many good players who, I know, are with me on this point. If the right hand be held loosely for the previous part of the swing, it surely must have a firm grip of the club when it strikes the ball.

"In gripping my club the left hand is partly hidden, the first finger and thumb being firmly locked in the right hand. The thumb of the left hand is kept along the shaft, not round it, and the little finger of the right hand rides the forefinger of the left. In this matter, so far as I know, I stand alone, nor do I venture to advise beginners or, in fact, any one else to copy it.

"As to pressure being put in the down stroke, pressure should be used throughout. I fail to see how one could come gently to within one foot and a half of the ball and at the last moment put in the necessary strength. Immediately at the descent of the club pressure should be put on, adding to its velocity until it comes in contact with the ball. The result in this case should neither be so strained nor likely to render the aim ineffective, as if it were made just when the club is nearing the ball.

"A very simple method of finding out whether your club is in its proper position at the top of the swing, and that the left wrist is down, is to glance over your left shoulder and look at the club head. If the name is facing you, your left wrist is wrong, and when the club head strikes the ball it will be at an angle and the result a 'pulled' ball. If the left wrist is down, as it ought to be, the face of the club will be facing you and not the name."

APPROACHING.

An approach shot may be any shot not a full one intended to find the ball on the green, and is generally an iron shot. The great failing of most approach shots is that they fall too short. For every six shots played, five out of the six are not up; therefore, in selecting your club, when in doubt select the longer driv-



FIG. 7. STIFF ARM APPROACH, CLUB AT FINISH OF SWING. HARRY VARDON

ing one, as no accident is likely to increase the distance of your drive, and there are many to curtail it.

Always run a ball in preference to pitching it, unless there is some special reason which necessitates pitching.

APPROACH SHOTS.

Approach shots differ from one another:

(*a*) In point of distance.

(*b*) In point of elevation.

(*c*) In point of style.

And include:

(*a*) 1. Three-quarter shots; 2. Half shots; 3. Stiff arm approach shots.

(*b*) 1. Running the ball up along the ground. 2. Lofting the ball with run; 3. Lofting so as to pitch dead.

(*c*) Includes (1) ball played with a straightforward stroke (club head moving in the line of flight of ball).

THE THREE-QUARTER STROKE.

The necessity for this stroke has almost entirely disappeared, owing to the fact that irons have been made with almost every kind of a pitch, and a man can now select a club and make a full swing with it and achieve the same results as would have been obtained by using one of the old spoons or irons which were all formerly made with a recognized amount of loft on each. It is so much easier to make a full swing than a three-quarter one that it is always better to use a shorter carrying club when the distance to the green requires a three-quarter stroke, if one of the long driving clubs is to be used.

HALF SHOTS.

The position of the ball and stance for playing half shots is somewhat, though not materially, different from that in Fig. No. 1. The ball is nearer the player's body, and nearer also to



FIG. 8. PUTTING. HARRY VARDON

the line of the right foot. The right foot is also further advanced. Fig. 4 shows the top of the swing. It need hardly be pointed out that as the club is not swung far around, the shoulders and the body do not move as much as in playing a full stroke. The shoulders must move round and the body must be easier. The left foot will be just raised of the heel and nothing more, the left leg flexed to ease the swing. It may, in fact, be said that the feet should not, if possible, be moved at all.

The elbow of the right arm should be kept in to the body, and not allowed to rise, but all the same the arms will be thrown out just as in playing full strokes. The follow-through will take place at the end of the swing, but instead of throwing the club and arms after the ball, they will rise quicker, and continue upwards over the left shoulder more than in the direction of the flight of the ball.

STIFF ARM APPROACH SHOTS.

Of stiff arm approach strokes there is an infinite variety of gradation—anything less than a half stroke falls under this definition. No further remarks on this subject require to be made, save that the ball should be nearer the player, and the feet closer together. Fig. 5 shows the position of the feet as the player addresses the ball; Fig. 6 shows the top of the swing. It will be observed that both legs are slightly more bent at the knees than is the case in playing a full shot, and that the body moves very little. I would only add: Stand firmly, and do not move the feet at all; keep the right elbow well into the side, and play from stiff wrists, giving the ball a quick, sharp hit.

In all these strokes the club must be held firmly with both hands, to give more command over it and to prevent its turning. It will be found of material assistance if the club is grasped further down the shaft; and the shorter the distance of the stroke to be played, the shorter a grip of the club may be taken.

In standing according to the directions above given, it will be found that while the weight of the body is supported on both

legs, the right really gives the greater amount of support. This can be easily tested by trying to lift either foot off the ground. For the above reason, this mode of playing approaches has been termed "off the right leg," and it is the method most usually adopted. Fig. 7 shows finish of stroke.

PUTTING.

Putting can be divided into two heads:

1. Approach putting.
2. Putting out, or holing the ball.

The greatest stress must be laid on the fact that you must keep your eye on the ball and don't glance at the hole just as you "put." Play your stroke "off the right leg," the ball just in front of your right foot, which is a little forward. Hold the putter with equal grip of both hands, and remember that the head of your club must follow your ball in a straight line to the hole.

There are four golden axioms which should always be observed:

1. Never take your eye off the ball.
2. Do not aim too long.
3. Be up, for you can never hole out unless you go as far as the hole.
4. Treat the course as if you loved it—*replace divots.*

"THE IDEAL COURSE"

Harry Vardon says that in each eighteen-hole course he thinks there should be three short holes, and possibly a fourth one of a little over 200 yards in length which would be more than a drive in an unfavorable wind.

The remainder of the course should, as far as possible, be made up of holes varying in length between 370 and 530 yards. Holes of between 230 and 330 yards are not good holes in Vardon's opinion, since the man who drove well might not gain any advantage over the man who drove badly. All holes except the short ones should be either two-shotters or three-shotters—that is to say, they should need either two or three full shots to reach the green.

Mr. H. H. Hilton says that in his ideal course he would include the following holes:

Three short holes of not more than 200 yards.

Three drive-and-pitch holes.

Eight two-shot holes of from 380 to 430 yards.

Four long holes of not less than 470 yards.

An "ideal golf course" with holes modeled as far as possible on classic examples is being made in the United States, 200 acres of land having been taken for the purpose in Peconic Bay. It is being made, "regardless of expense," by the National Golf Club, which has been established for the purpose.

Mr. Charles B. Macdonald is the chief designer, and at the outset his views as to what constituted the ideal course were as follows:

Two short holes for iron shots, 130 to 160 yards.

Two 500-yard holes.

Two drive-and-pitch holes, 300 to 320 yards.

Eight two-shot holes, 350 to 470 yards.

Four long one-shot holes varying from 190 to 250 yards, according to the contour of the ground, the longer holes having the fair green falling toward the putting green.

Eventually, after making a close study of holes everywhere, Mr. Macdonald chose the following as his examples:—

1. 370 yards. Like the bottle (?) hole at Sunningdale, placing deep graduated bunkers in place of ditch, and bunker the green properly.

2. 340 yards. Composite first shot of the 14th on Perfection at North Berwick, with green and bunker guard like the 15th at Muirfield.

3. 320 yards. Like the 3d at St. Andrews.

4. 187 yards. Like the Redan at North Berwick.

5. 510 yards. Suggested by the 16th at Littlestone.

6. 400 yards. Like the 4th at Sandwich.

7. 130 yards. Like the 5th at Brancaster with the tee raised so that the players can see where the pin enters the hole.

8. 420 yards. Like the 9th at Leven.

9. 350 yards. Like the 9th at Brancaster.

10. 240 yards. Like the 3d on Sahara at Sandwich, making carry full 175 yards direct, then a fair run to green with alternative to play around.

11. 450 yards. Similar to 17th at St. Andrews, making very bad hazard instead of out of bounds, and while keeping the green same size as at present would alter fall of plateau approaching.

12. 160 yards. Resembling 11th at St. Andrews.

13. 400 yards. Like the 3d at Prestwick.

14. 490 yards. Like 14th at St. Andrews, making green larger and run up less fluky.

15. 210 yards. Suggested by 12th at Biarritz, making sharp hog-back in middle of course.

16. 300 yards. Suggested by 7th at Leven, which is only 240 yards, with burn running at a bias, and green guarded by sharp hillocks.

17. 380 yards. Like the 17th on Alps, Prestwick.

18. 360 yards. Resembling the 8th on the new course at St. Andrews, which is now too long for the bunkering.

Total length, 6,017 yards.

THE TRIUMVIRATE

It is very seldom in the history of any sport that three such perfect champions as are Harry Vardon, James Braid, and J. H. Taylor in golf, should be contemporaries and of about the same age. These three, commonly called "the triumvirate," have had such a monopoly of the Open Championship during the past few years as it is highly probable no three will ever have again.

Taylor was the first to make himself prominent, winning the Open Championship in 1894 and 1895. Although Braid was in the tenth place in 1894 he was not a competitor in 1895, and therefore comparative statistics can only date from the following year, since when all three have regularly competed. From that year to the present the placings of the triumvirate in the premier event have been as follows:

Year.	Vardon.	Taylor.	Braid.
1896	1	2	6
1897	6	10	2
1898	1	4	11
1899	1	4	5
1900	2	1	3
1901	2	3	1
1902	2	6	2
1903	1	9	5
1904	5	2	2
1905	9	2	1
1906	3	2	1

In 1896 Vardon and Taylor tied for first place, but Vardon won on playing off. In 1902 there was a tie between Vardon and Braid for second place, and in 1904 there was a tie for second place between Taylor and Braid.

If each man's placings in the above table are added up the following result for the eleven championships is given:

Harry Vardon	33
James Braid	39
J. H. Taylor	45

It is, however, to be particularly noted that this is not giving Taylor any benefit from his two victories in the years before the triumvirate was definitely brought into line. In 1894 Vardon was fifth, and in 1895 he was ninth. In 1894 Braid was tenth. If you gave him a maximum 1 for a tie with Taylor in the year he did not compete it would work out that on the thirteen years Vardon and Taylor were level, and Braid three points behind.

For the eleven years the stroke scores of the triumvirate in the Open Championship have been as follows:

Year.	Vardon.	Taylor.	Braid.
1896.....	316	316	323
1897.....	320	330	315
1898.....	307	312	322
1899.....	310	320	322
1900.....	317	309	322
1901.....	312	313	309
1902.....	308	314	308
1903.....	300	316	310
1904.....	302	297	297
1905.....	329	323	318
1906.....	305	304	300
Total.....	3,426	3,454	3,446

Thus the eleven years' championship comes out as follows:

Harry Vardon	3,426
James Braid	3,446
J. H. Taylor	3,454

It will be perceived that in forty-four championship rounds played, spread over this period of eleven years, there is only a difference of twenty-eight strokes between the first man and the third, and only eight strokes between the second and third.

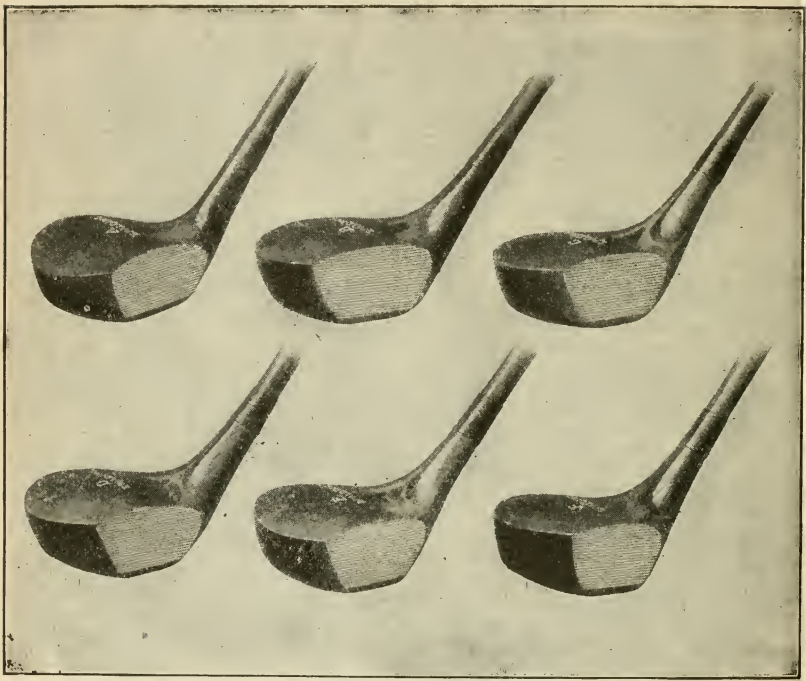
Three times the triumvirate have occupied the top three places, and that their power is not on the wane was evinced by the fact that after an eleven years' reign they took the first, second and third places for themselves in the Open Championship at Muirfield in 1906.

What to Use for Golf

Spalding claims the credit for a good part of the popularity that the game of golf has met with in the United States, mainly on account of the fact that, from the time of the introduction of golf into this country, they have consistently endeavored to improve the implements of play, working carefully over the clubs, balls and everything else required by the golf player. Their unequaled facilities, in the first place, have enabled them to work on their golf line to better advantage than other manufacturers, and to this is added their previous experience in catering to the requirements of athletes. With Spalding there is an experience of thirty years in manufacturing and supplying athletic equipment, which enables them to bring to the solution of the problem of making up a new article of athletic equipment the best facilities that a manufacturer could have—experience, knowledge, and capability. All of these have helped Spalding to turn out what is universally recognized—that is, not only in the United States, but also abroad, because Spalding golf goods are used now in the British Isles and on the Continent almost as generally as they are in the United States—as the most perfect line of golf goods manufactured anywhere.

To start with, the Spalding Gold Medal line of Drivers and Brassies are the gradual evolution from the original Spalding clubs that they made up, at the start, after ideas given them by prominent golf players. These original Spalding clubs have been improved each season. The material has been more carefully selected as time went on, until to-day in the Gold Medal line the golf player has furnished him clubs that are as nearly perfect in workmanship and material as it is possible to turn out an article of this character. The heads are of the finest dogwood and persimmon. The shafts are all second-growth split hickory, and particular attention has been given to the spring and balance of the club; the grips are of finest calfskin, or, if preferred, Spalding will furnish grips made of their new, patent material, rubber style, but not of rubber, which provides a rough grip that is pleasing to the feel and gives a safe grip to the player. The Spalding Gold Medal Clubs are superbly finished throughout. The price of the Drivers and Brassies is $2.50 each.

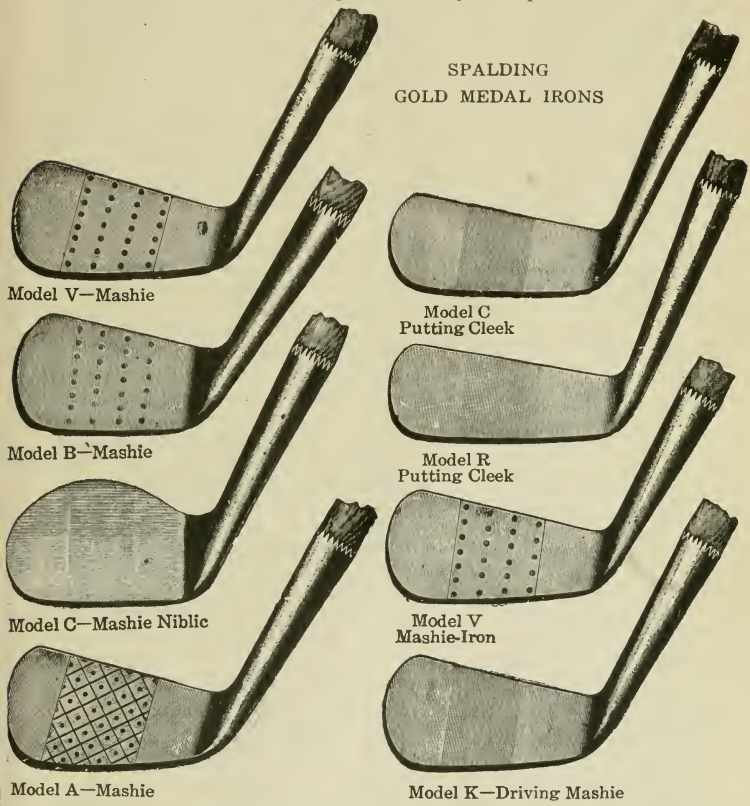
In the Spalding line of Gold Medal Irons are included models that have been taken from the playing clubs of some of the best golfers in the world. Spalding has duplicated these playing clubs, which represent the ideas of the most prominent golf players in the world to-day, and these are included in the Spalding regular line of Gold Medal Golf Irons. They also



SPALDING GOLD MEDAL DRIVERS AND BRASSIES.

agree if a player prefers some other model different from anything that they have in their line to copy it exactly, as they can do this to the best advantage, owing to their unequaled facilities, and the price for copying such a special iron club will be the same as for the regular stock article, for, as a matter of fact, all of these Gold Medal Irons are really special clubs,

being hand-hammered from the finest mild steel. In these Gold Medal Irons the shafts are of the best second-growth split hickory, and the grips are of finest calfskin or of the new rubber style roughened grip, of the special patented material



which Spalding controls. The price of any of the Gold Medal Irons is $2 each.

In answer to calls for a satisfactory style of wood putter, Spalding is turning out two different styles made of wood

heavily weighted with lead. These are known as models A and R. Model A has a narrow head, and model R has a convex sole. Both of these putters have, attached to the face of the head and covering the face entirely, a scored brass plate. The shaft is placed directly behind point of impact, the balance is perfect, and the clubs certainly feel just right. Best quality tan calfskin roughened grips furnished on these clubs. The price of the Gold Medal Wood Putters, Models A and R, is $2.50 each.

A very satisfactory style of juvenile golf club is furnished by Spalding, with every advantage of proportionate size, making a perfect club for the use of boys and girls up to fourteen years of age. These are furnished by Spalding in drivers, brassies, cleeks, lofters, and putters, and the price for any of these styles in the juvenile clubs is $1 each.

The merits and points of superiority of aluminum clubs have been attested by many of the most prominent players in this country. Spalding includes in their line styles of aluminum clubs that are recognized as standard. These are models of drivers, brassies, cleeks, lofters, mashies, and the mid irons. The price of any of these models is $2 each. In the aluminum clubs Spalding also furnishes what is known as the Hammer-Headed Putter for $2.50 each, and what is known as the Model C Putter for $2.50 each.

A style of club that worked its way into popularity on account of its really good qualities is what is known as the Spalding Hollow Steel Faced Golf Club, patented by Spalding and manufactured by them. They rivet a piece of one-sixteenth inch highly tempered steel on a hollow head, and in this way this club gives the player spring and resistance combined at the point where they are required in a satisfactory golf club. This style of hollow steel club is furnished in cleek, lofting mashie, mid iron, and putter, and is equipped with the finest sheepskin roughened grips. The price for the hollow Steel Faced Club is $2.50 each.

For those who want a club for all-around use, and do not wish to purchase the best grade, Spalding supplies their Crescent Clubs for $1.50 each, in either drivers or brassies in the wood clubs, or in iron in cleeks, mashies, niblics, mid irons, driving irons, lofters and putters. The price of the Crescent Clubs, wood or iron, is $1.50 each.

About Golf Balls.—When it comes to tell the history of golf-ball making, so far as concerns the United States, the future historian will have to give a pretty large place to the work that has been done by A. G. Spalding & Bros. in turning out golf balls that are really right. The expense and the trouble

that they have gone to in their endeavor to work up a ball for the player that would be recognized as the finest on the market is wonderful, and, as a matter of fact, would have been out of the reach of any other manufacturer not possessing the unequaled facilities that the Spalding concern has, owing to their thirty years' experience in turning out athletic equipment of every description. Many golf players do not realize just what has been done for them in turning out a satisfactory style of ball. All gutta-percha used in golf balls comes from the Malay Peninsula. Money, as is well known, will buy almost anything, and Spalding, in their endeavor to secure the most satisfactory grade of gutta-percha, bought the co-operation and the services of the greatest gutta-percha agent in the old country to buy their crude gutta-percha for them. They gave a *carte blanche* order to a firm in England to buy for them all of the latest machinery used in cleaning gutta-percha for the manufacture of golf balls, and they paid a man to come and set it up and see that all details of manufacture were properly attended to. That is what has made it possible for A. G. Spalding & Bros. to turn out what was known throughout this country as the most satisfactory style of solid golf ball, the Vardon Flyer, which was used by Henry Vardon during his American tour. Vardon claimed that this ball gave him a longer and truer flight than he could obtain with any other style. And it is a fact that the majority of American players used the Vardon ball, to the great improvement of their game.

When they recognized that something else was required in a golf ball further than solid gutta-percha, Spalding set about using the ideas that they had worked up in manufacturing golf balls, polo balls, and other balls with a wound center, to produce a really satisfactory golf ball with a core, and, finally working out this end of the manufacturing problem, they have put out three styles of rubber-cored golf balls which are recognized as the very finest ever made for golf playing. In the rubber-cored golf ball the feature that is worked upon is the fact that gutta-percha is the most satisfactory material for a perfect cover, and rubber elastic under the highest possible tension is the most satisfactory material for winding material beneath the gutta-percha cover in order to give the greatest life to the ball. The elastic winding under the highest possible tension is what produces the resiliency of the rubber-cored golf ball, and the cover of gutta-percha is merely used as a protector to the elastic against the blow of the club.

The Spalding Glory Golf Ball (Red, White, and Blue Dot) is the latest thing put out by Spalding is the way of a golf ball, and they claim that it is really a perfect ball. They make the

statement that they have put these out more with the idea of still further advancing their reputation as golf ball makers rather than with any hope of great pecuniary gain, for it represents to them an initial expense that is very considerable, and, in carrying out their promise to golf players to furnish the best ball possible to produce, they have had to purchase at a great expense the absolute control of the most expensive material ever used in a golf ball, and they will be compelled to retain at their factory the expert ball makers whose skill have made the Spalding Glory Golf Ball possible. The price of the Spalding Glory Golf Ball is $9.00 per dozen. Spalding mentions that they have purchased for this Glory Golf Ball the most expensive material ever used in a golf ball, and perhaps a few words in explanation of this statement may not be out of place. Gutta-percha, as mentioned previously, comes from the Malay Peninsula. The milk, or juice, is shipped down to the coast full of dirt of all descriptions. It is there boiled and compressed and adulterated with sawdust and other impurities. When cutting down the trees, as is generally done, they cut through the bark to reach the lactiferous vessels which contain the milk, or juice, releasing other vessels containing Tannic and Gallic acid, and which are extremely detrimental to the pure gum, and which, of course, mixes with the gutta-percha juice. The ordinary gutta-percha is of a dark red color, but when quite pure is the color of milk. Spalding, in their endeavor to arrive at the most perfect material out of



which to manufacture the cover of their three grades of rubber-cored golf balls, at enormous expense secured the absolute control of a most costly process for treating the crude gutta-percha, and in working this out they take the whole mass of gutta and subject it to this process, which extracts all Tannic and Gallic acids and impurities of all descriptions, leaving nothing but the pure gum in its natural milk-white color, the finest and most resilient substance on earth. After coming out of the various numerical stages to which the crude gutta is subjected, Spalding gets about 60 per cent. pure white gum and about 40 per cent. of every imaginable useless substance which the gutta formerly contained. Common sense will tell any man that a golf ball manufactured with an outer shell of perfectly pure white gum must be finer and better than the same shell with all the impurities left in it, and must, when played with, last longer. Therefore, for reasons which are absolutely irrefutable, Spalding claims that the Spalding White Golf Ball (Red Dot), with cover made of purified white gutta, is really the most perfect ball, next to the Spalding Glory Ball, which also has the purified white cover. The price of the Spalding White Golf Ball (Red Dot) is $6 per dozen, and is without doubt the most widely played ball ever made.

An old favorite in the Spalding line, improved each season, and now better than ever—even better than during the season of 1903—the Spalding Wizard Golf Ball, with cover made of best quality gutta, is played with by many of the greatest players of the world. Many have used it year in and year out, to their own satisfaction and to the benefit, most certainly, of their play. The Spalding Wizard Golf Ball (Blue Dot) costs $6 per dozen.

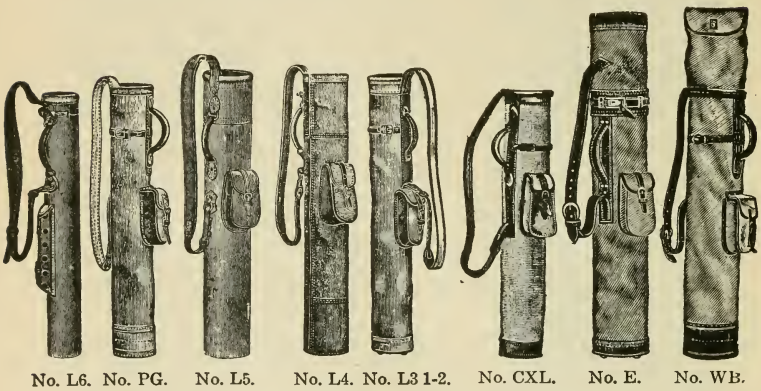
Spalding remakes golf balls, both solid gutta and rubber-cored, and in remaking the rubber-cored golf balls they are re-covered entirely, not merely remolded, and fresh elastic is added to take the place of the small quantity immediately under the cover which deteriorates during its life as a new ball. The price of the Spalding White Remade Golf Balls purchased outright is $4 per dozen; the price of the Spalding Wizard Remade Golf Balls purchased outright is $4 per dozen, and for remaking either of these balls, where old balls are furnished, the price is $2.50 per dozen. Remade solid gutta golf balls cost $2.50 per dozen purchased outright; and Spalding will remake any standard grade of solid gutta golf ball, where old balls are furnished for $1 per dozen.

Spalding Caddy Bags are well made. They use in their canvas bags the heaviest and best grade of duck suitable for the purpose, and in their leather bags they use solid leather, and

not thin strips glued together. The handles on all of their bags are made to conform to a man's grip, and are guaranteed not to break at the bend. All the bottoms are stitched and double-sewn on special, patented machines. The full line of Spalding Caddy Bags, the most complete line made anywhere and comprising styles of every possible description, are noted in brief below, with prices of each style specified. In the all-leather bags, full size, the following are furnished by Spalding:

No. L3½. Grain leather bag, good quality, brass trimmings, and leather bottom. Price, $5 00

No. L6. Small stiff tan leather bag, snap sling and brass trimmings throughout. Long ball pocket, opening top and bottom. Price, 5 00



No. L6. No. PG. No. L5. No. L4. No. L3 1-2. No. CXL. No. E. No. WB.

No. L4. Imported foot ball leather bag, brass trimmings, leather bottom, and one of the most durable bags made. Price, 6 00

No. PG. Genuine pigskin bag, heavy brass harness buckle on shoulder strap, brass studs and trimmings, leather bottom. Price, 10 00

No. L5. Stiff leather, best quality bag, ball pocket, and sling to match, brass trimmings, leather bottom. Price, 6 00

No. L5H. Same style as No. L5, but with lock and removable hood for covering clubs while traveling. This caddy bag will be accepted by railroads as baggage. Price, 9 00

In the full-size canvas **bags** Spalding furnishes the following styles:

No. E. Extra heavy brown canvas bag with hood, leather trimmings, leather top and bottom, and extra large ball pocket. This bag measures 7¾ inches in diameter, and has a removable hood, and when fastened with the encircling strap with the patent buckle lock will be accepted by railroads as baggage..Price, $6 00

No. WB. White duck bag, two sizes, 7 inches and 8 inches in diameter, extra heavy solid leather shoulder strap, with patent buckle lock and leather trimmings; reinforced heavy leather bottom; waterproof hood to fasten with strap, and staples inside over clubs..Price, 7 00

No. WBR. Made with heavy leather reinforcing strips running lengthwise, otherwise similar to No. WB. Price, 8 00

No. B. Like No. WB, but made of brown canvas..Price, 7 00

No. BR. Made with heavy leather reinforcing strips running lengthwise, otherwise similar to No. B..Price, 8 00

No. A2. Heavy tan canvas bag, 6 inches in diameter, leather trimmings; leather reinforced strips running lengthwise; sole-leather bottom, ball pocket, and sling.....Price, 4 00

No. CX. Light tan-colored canvas, leather bottom, ball pocket. sling to match.....Price, 2 50

No. CXL. Same style as No. CX, excepting that it is made larger throughout; studs on bottom....Price, 3 00

No. C3. Heavy brown canvas, leather trimmings; reinforced canvas bottom; ball pocket and sling to match.....Price, 1 75

No. C2. Brown canvas, leather trimmings, canvas-covered wood bottom; ball pocket and sling.....Price, 1 00

Spalding furnishes the following special styles of caddy bags for women:

No. WL3. Fine bridle leather, ball pocket and sling, brass trimmings; an exceedingly fine-looking and serviceable bag.....Price, $5 00

No. WL3½. Grain leather bag, good quality, brass trimmings, and leather bottom.....Price, 5 00

Spalding also furnishes a special style for children, known as No. 10, made of brown canvas, leather trimmings, ball pocket and sling, canvas-covered wood bottom; price, $1.

In the line of Golf Sundries listed by Spalding in their special Golf Catalogue, a copy of which should be in the hands of every golf player, will be found a number of very useful articles for

the ordinary golf player as well as for the expert. Spalding furnishes a very satisfactory line of Golfing Gloves. These are:

No. G1. Made of best quality soft white chamois, open knuckles, perforated back and palm. A very superior glove. Price, $2.25 per pair.

No. G2. Fine soft tanned chamois, open knuckles, perforated back and palm. Price, $1.75 per pair.

No. G2L. Same quality as No. G2, but for left hand only, with reinforced leather palm. Price, $1 each.

No. G3. Fingerless glove, palms reinforced, perforated backs. Price, $1 per pair.

No. G4. Fingerless glove, for left hand only. Price, 50 cents each.

A very useful article for golf players is what is known as the Seccomb Grip Winder, made of rubber fabric, and can be put on over regular grip. The roughened surface makes an ideal grip for all kinds of weather. This grip is known as the No. S, and the price is 15 cents each. A preparation that is also very useful is what is known as Sure Grip. This will not soil the hands, and its application insures a firm grip at all times. The price of this preparation is 25 cents per box. Players who have had some experience realize the necessity for something—either in the way of hobnails, disks or studs of some character—on the soles of their shoes when playing. Spalding furnishes everything of this kind needed. A very satisfactory style of Rubber Disk is their No. 9. With these disks it is possible for a player to go into the club house right from the golfing course, which is not so in many cases where ordinary hobnails are worn on shoes. The price of the No. 9 disks is 5 cents each, A very satisfactory style of Golf Stud is what is known as Way's style, made of highly tempered steel, screwed to sole and heel. This style of stud always insures a firm footing. The price is 10 cents each, or for a set of 12 complete, 75 cents. Hobnails cost for iron 10 cents per dozen, and for aluminum, 15 cents per dozen. Many golf players like to use a rubber grip, and for these Spalding furnishes a very satisfactory style in their No. 6, made with corrugated surface of purest Para rubber. It will fit any golf club, and insures a firm and perfect grip. The price of this No. 6 Rubber Grip is 50 cents each. Golf players like to occasionally repaint the golf balls they are using, and Spalding furnishes a most satisfactory grade of glossy golf paint. It is the same as is used exclusively by the leading makers in the United States and Great Britain, and A. G. Spalding & Bros. are the sole agents for the United States. The price of this Griffith Glossy Golf Paint, No. 11, is 50 cents per can. Another preparation, known as Golf White, also answers the same purpose as paint, but it dries instantly, and will

not chip, crack, or wear off. This is furnished in either white or red, and the price for the No. 8 Golf White is 15 cents per bottle. If the ball is cleaned occasionally it materially lessens the chance of losing it, and in the form of a tobacco pouch Spalding furnishes two styles of ball cleaners. Their No. 25 is made with a rubber pouch, enclosing a sponge, into which a little water can be introduced, making an exceedingly satisfactory style of ball cleaner, and making it unnecessary to handle the ball itself until it is thoroughly cleaned. The price of this No. 25 Ball Cleaner is 25 cents each. The No. 27 Style Ball Cleaner is also made with a rubber pouch, enclosing a sponge and a circular bristle brush. This style of cleaner is very effective indeed. The price is 35 cents each for the No. 27. Another very necessary article for the golf player is a club polisher. This is furnished by Spalding, and is known as Kaddy Polish No. 1040. The price of the No. 1040 Kaddy Polish is 10 cents each. Spalding also furnishes an Emery Cloth Cleaner, consisting of a book of fifteen sheets of emery cloth, very effective for cleaning clubs. The price of this Emery Cloth Cleaner No. E is 20 cents each.

Another very necessary article is a satisfactory style of tee. Spalding supplies two different styles, and their Anchor Tee, which, it is claimed, cannot be lost, is held on the teeing ground by the anchor, and can only move the length of the string, which is about 9 inches. The anchor is put to the left and front of the tee. The price of the No. 5 Anchor Golf Tee is 15 cents each. The ordinary rubber golf tee, regulation style, made of red rubber, is known as Spalding No. 3, and costs 5 cents each. They also furnish score sheets for large match and medal play. The price of these Score Sheets, No. L, is 15 cents each. Score books with leather case cost 50 cents each. A style of counter that has rapidly achieved popularity with golf players is what is known as the Liberty Golf Counter. The cover to which the celluloid counters are attached is pliable, and provides for easy and quick turning of disks. No pencil is required with this counter except for transferring the score from the counters to the record, and provision is also made for a permanent or yearly record. The ladies' styles furnished in the Liberty Counter are made for the belt in such a way as not to require detaching in keeping the score while playing. This Liberty Golf Counter is furnished in the following styles by Spalding:

No. 2.	Ladies' genuine pigskin.....	Price,	$1 50 each
No. 15.	Ladies' black seal grain.....	Price,	1 00 "
No. 25.	Gents' genuine pigskin.....	Price,	1 00 "
No. 26.	Gents' black seal grain.....	Price,	75 "
No. 50.	Gents' tablet counters,.....	Price,	50 "
Renewable fillers for the above counters.....		Price,	15 "

In the way of supplies for golf courses Spalding has the most complete line manufactured anywhere. Their marking disks are used on every prominent course in the United States. They furnish the following styles, all made of heavy tin, painted red and white, and numbered from 1 to 18, to designate the number of hole. The iron shaft is strongly attached to disk and is about four feet long. The following are the styles furnished in the marking discs:

No. 3.	Heart shape	$0 60 each
No. 4.	Oblong shape	60 each
No. 5.	Pear shape, hollow.....	1 50 each
No. 6.	Windmill, four flanges...	1 00 each

Spalding also furnishes a very satisfactory style of marking disk known as their No. 7. This is circular, complete with a red flag, and the price is $1 each. Another necessary article for the golf course is a hole cutter. The style furnished by Spalding is made of steel, and the earth is ejected when withdrawn from hole. It is very simple and efficient, and is made of the best quality steel. The price of this No. 10 Steel Hole Cutter is $3 each. Golf-hole rims, while they appear very simple, are made in different styles, and there is all the difference in these that there is between anything else which is made right as compared with something that is not made right. The Spalding simple iron hole rim is known as their No. 20, and is fitted with a crosspiece, which prevents the ball from falling to the bottom of the hole. This is a very effective arrangement, especially during wet weather, as it prevents the ball from getting soiled. The price of this No. 20 Hole Rim is 40 cents each. The patented style of hole rim furnished by Spalding is known as the Midlothian, and they claim that it is the best hole rim ever made. This is a solid iron casting in one piece, solid enough to prevent the hole from being racked by the weight of the hole disc or flag, which is always kept in an upright position by the neck below the cup. This style of rim should be seen to be appreciated. It is known as the Spalding No. 25, and costs $1 each.

Direction and marking flags are furnished by Spalding in red, white, red and white, blue and white, or any other combination of colors. The price of their No. 9 Oblong Flag is 40 cents each, and for their No. 11 Flag, triangle shape, 40 cents each. Marking flags, red out, numbered from 1 to 9, white in, numbered 10 to 18, cost for No. 2 style, flags only, numbered, as ordered, 50 cents each, and for the No. 5 spear-head staffs, 7 feet long, 50 cents each. Metal badges for caddies, each badge numbered and with safety pin on back to fasten to cap or breast,

cost 35 cents each. Putting disks, the object of which is to train the eye in putting and an article that should be on the clubhouse putting green, while they are also useful for indoor practise, cost 25 cents each. Teeing plates, round shape, made to lie flush with the ground, and used to mark the space within the limits of which the ball must be teed, cost for the No. 8 style 50 cents per pair. A very excellent article for practice in driving is what is known as Parachute Golf Ball, furnished by Spalding, with the parachute attached to the ball. It prevents the ball from traveling very far, no matter how hard hit. The price of the Parachute Golf Ball is 75 cents each. Another very excellent article for golf practice is the game of Golfette. This is not really a game, but is a device consisting of a series of nets into which the golf ball is lofted. The object of it is to loft the ball into the center net; in other words, to secure accuracy in lofting. For the purpose of keeping score the following count is made. The inner net counts 3, the center net 2, and the outer net 1 point. A distance of from 15 to 25 feet from net is proper when using this Golfette and, of course, the regular golf clubs and ball are used. The price of this No. 13 Golfette is $5 each.

It is hardly necessary to describe the game of Clock Golf, but it might be stated that this is an excellent device for practice in putting. Spalding furnishes two different styles. The figures are arranged in a circle from 20 to 24 feet in diameter, or of any size the lawn will admit. Each player holes out from each figure point, counting his strokes, and, with a few exceptions, the regular rules on putting apply. Sets consist of 12 figures, one marking flag, hole rim, and measuring chain for getting the proper distance for setting the figures. Spalding furnishes the set complete in boxes with descriptive circular in their No. 1 style, with raised figures in black on white teeing plates, for $10 per set, and in their No. 2 style, with plain, cut-out figures, painted white but not on plates, for $5 per set.

What to Wear for Golf

Take a golf player, a man who really plays for the love of the game, and you find some one who is a real sport. He loves the game for the benefit it is to him as a relaxation and for the amount of exercise it gives him. Such a man when he is playing wants to be comfortable, and it will not do for him to simply have a makeshift outfit, wearing, perhaps, his cast-off street clothes; but instead he should dress for the game, and there



No. VG.

is no more certain means of obtaining proper clothing for golf and for any other athletic sport than by going to a Spalding store and letting them furnish the outfit.

A sweater has come to be recognized as one of the necessary articles in the golfing outfit. It lends itself to the ease that one requires in the upper part of the body when playing golf; it looks well under trying circumstances, bad weather, etc.—

that is, when it is made by Spalding—and is always comfortable. Spalding furnishes a number of grades in satisfactory golfing sweaters. The No. VG Jacket Sweater, vest shape, is a very popular style. It is made of best quality worsted, heavy weight, with pearl buttons, and is made up in either gray or white. The price is $6 each. The next grade is the No. CJ, of fine worsted, standard weight, furnished with pearl buttons. Made in gray or white only. This costs $5 each. In a very satisfactory sweater, Shaker knit, also standard weight Spalding furnishes their No. 3J, with pearl buttons and made up in gray or white only, for $4.50 each. These



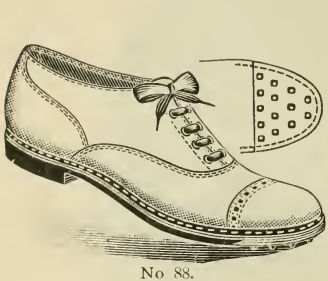
No. VGP.

sweaters really stand at the head of the list when it comes to picking out a golfing outfit, but another popular style with golfers is the vest-collar sweater, with extreme open or low neck, as furnished by Spalding. The best grade in this style is their No. BG, furnished in gray or white only, made of finest lamb's wool and in heavy weight, ribbed at the bottom of skirt and cuffs, for $5 each. A slightly lighter weight, but in same grade, also furnished in gray or white, is the Spalding No. CG, at $4.50, and in the Shaker knit, standard weight, the No. 3G in white or gray at $4.

Some golfers like a jacket sweater with pockets. Pockets are always convenient, especially so in the golfing sweater, and the Spalding No. VGP, made up with pockets on either side and furnished in gray or white, is supplied by Spalding at $6.50 each.

A copy of the Spalding Catalogue of Uniform Goods should be in the hands of every golf player, and there is included in same a list of articles needed by the golf player, and, in fact, by anyone interested in athletic sports, and this catalogue will be sent free to any address from any Spalding store.

During the heated term the sweater is perhaps a little heavy for golf, and Spalding supplies a very satisfctory style of jersey, light weight, made of good quality worsted and in solid colors, either navy blue, black, maroon, or gray. This jersey has V neck, and is very comfortable article for golf players. It is known as the Spalding No. 12PV Jersey, and the price is $2.50 each.



No 88.



No. 8.

Spalding furnishes their regular line of sweaters with roll collars at prices ranging from $8 each down to $1.50 each, and these are all listed in the regular Spalding Catalogue of Uniform Goods. They also furnish a most complete line of jerseys with roll collars at prices from $4.50 each down to $2 each. All of these are made of good quality worsted, and they are most subtantially constructed. Stripes are furnished in both jerseys and sweaters, and in anything in the Spalding line will be found every possible combination that can be thought of in a worsted article.

After the sweater, to a golf player, the next most important article is the shoe. Spalding has been at the head of the list in supplying the proper goods for golf playing ever since the introduction of this sport into the United States, and, being at the head of the list in the way of supplying golf equipment,

they have not fallen behind in the matter of keeping well in advance of all manufacturers in the way of proper clothing and outfits for golf players. Their unequaled facilities for turning out the proper athletic shoes has enabled them to put out golf shoes that are as far in advance of other makers' styles as their general line of athletic equipment is in advance of the ordinary make of athletic goods found on the market.

The best grade Spalding Golf Shoe is their No. 88. This is made of fine Russia calf in Oxford style, and it is a strictly bench-made shoe. Some makers call their shoes hand-made, when, as a matter of fact, there is practically no handwork in their make-up; but in the Spalding factory the hand-made shoes are really shoes that are made by cobblers at the bench. These men who turn out the hand-made shoes for Spalding are skilled. Many of them have been working on Spalding Athletic Shoes for fifteen or twenty years. They have gotten so that they have a peculiar knack that is absent in the work of the ordinary shoemaker, and this special feature in Spalding Athletic Shoes is what has brought about their great popularity. This is true not only with base ball, foot ball, basket ball, running, tennis, and gymnasium shoes, but also with their line of superior golf shoes, and at the head of the list stands this No. 88 shoe. Besides, being made of the very best material and the finest workmanship throughout, this shoe has a special spliced rubber sole. This is a new idea, and it is very popular with golf players. It has a full heel and studded leather toe. The shoe really must be seen to be fully appreciated, as it is really the most up-to-date golf shoe made. The price of the No. 88 Spalding Golf Shoe is $8 per pair. The next grade in Spalding Golf Shoes is the No. 8, made of finest English tan leather of Balmoral shape, with flat sole last and box toe. The sole is made heavy enough to attach hobnails or rubber disks. This is a hand-made shoe of excellent quality throughout. The price of the No. 8 Spalding Golf Shoe is $7 per pair. Similar in quality and make to the No. 8, but of Oxford shape instead, is the No. 6 shoe, a very satisfactory low-cut shoe, the price of which is $6 per pair.

Spalding, recognizing that there are many players who like a satisfactory style of golf shoe, with rubber sole, makes up the No. 9 shoe, with a sole bringing in the suction arrangement, same as on their basket ball shoes. This No. 9 shoe is made low cut, of russet leather; it is waterproof, and is fitted with the best red rubber suction sole. The price of the No. 9 shoe is $5 per pair.

Golf players often require hobnails or rubber disks for attaching to their shoes, and these Spalding furnishes. For the best aluminum hobnails, No. A, the price is 15 cents per dozen;

for iron hobnails, No. MK, the price is 10 cents per dozen; for rubber disks, satisfactory style for attaching to the soles of golf shoes, the price is 5 cents each.

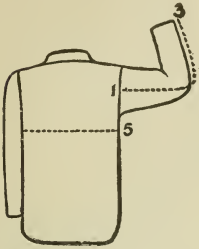
Many golf players use what is known as a puttee or riding leggin, and Spalding furnishes the most satisfactory style in two different grades. Their No. 1P is made of genuine pigskin, modeled to shape of leg, and is tightened with a strap that goes right around. This puttee is furnished in sizes 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18-inch calf measurement. The price of the No. 1P Puttee is $8 per pair. The next grade in the Spalding Puttees is their No. 1, made of cowhide, nicely grained, and very similar in design to the No. 1P, furnished also in the same sizes. The price of the No. 1 Puttee is $5 per pair.

Recently, recognizing the need of proper outing shirt and trousers and athletic underwear, Spalding got out a most satisfactory line. These goods are all very well made, and will give the best of satisfaction. For a golf player there is really nothing better made, and the prices are exceedingly reasonable when the quality of material and the workmanship is considered.

The shirts are made with two different styles of collars: No. D style is the dress-shirt, upright style, and the No. E style is the ordinary outing-shirt style flap. All of the Spalding shirts are made with full sleeves, with double pearl buttons, link style in cuffs, and button front. The No. 10 Spalding outing shirt, made of all-wool flannel, in mixed patterns, including stripes, plaids, and solid colors, costs $3 each. The No. 12, made of eden cloth, in mixed patterns, including attractive stripes and plaids, costs $2 each; and the No. 18, made of mixed cotton and wool, plain white, costs $3 each. The No. 20 Spalding shirt, made of white zephyr weave, material very attractive, costs $1.50 each.

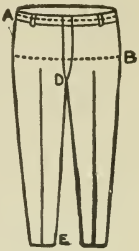
In the Spalding outing trousers great care has been taken to make them up with the idea of giving a comfortable fit. The trousers are made with one hip, one watch and two side pockets, and belt loops. The styles furnished by Spalding in their trousers are: No. 9, all-wool flannel, medium weight, plain white, price $7 per pair; No. 11, all-wool flannel, medium weight, mixed colors and stripes, $7 per pair; No. 15, all-wool flannel, light weight, mixed colors and stripes, $6 per pair; No. 19, all-wool flannel, medium weight, made of material the same quality and colors as in the best Spalding Base Ball Uniforms, price $6 per pair. Spalding also furnishes a very satisfactory style of white duck trousers known as their No. 3. These are well made, and of good quality white duck. The price of the No. 3 white duck trousers is $1.50 per pair. Spalding will send on application measurement blanks and samples of material, but

if in a hurry, when ordering, take your own measurements according to the measurements shown herewith, and Spalding will make up the shirts and trousers so that they will really look well and fit comfortably.



How to Measure for Shirt.—State size of collar worn; length of sleeve from shoulder to wrist with arm raised and bent as shown (1–3); size around chest (5–5).

How to Measure for Trousers.—Around waist (A–A); inseam (D to E); around hips (B–B).



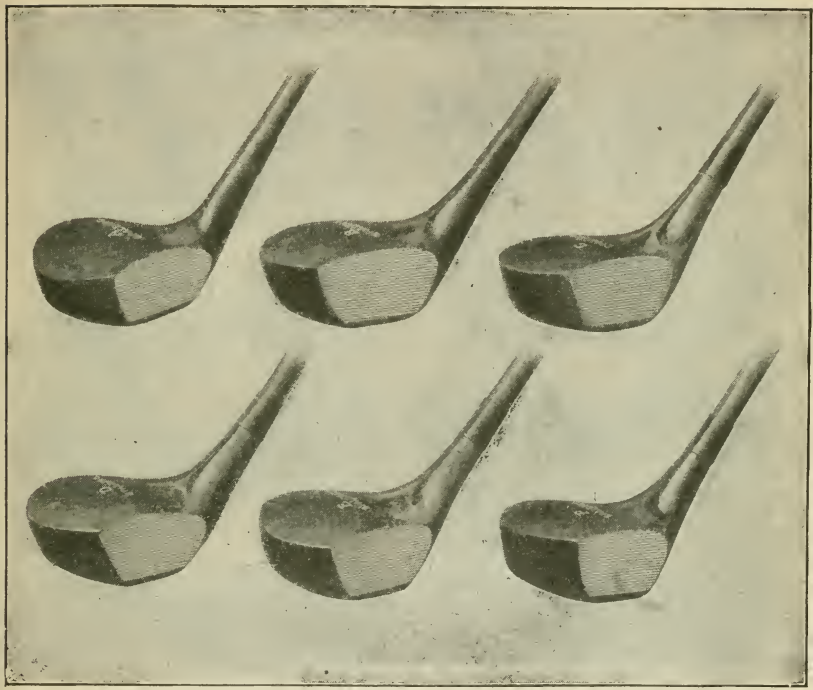
For some time past it has been recognized that there was a great need for some kind of athletic wear that would be suitable at the same time for use as underwear, during the heated term especially, but throughout the year if desired. Spalding has put out shirts and knee pants in materials which it is believed has filled this need. The quality of each article is calculated to satisfy even the most exacting. The No. 15 white cotton-mesh sleeveless shirts cost $1 each. No. 15P white cotton-mesh knee pants cost $1.50 per pair. No. 10E natural cotton-mesh sleeveless shirts cost $1.50 each, and the No. 10EP natural cotton-mesh knee pants cost $1.50 per pair. The shirts are made in sizes from 26 to 44 inches chest measurement, and the knee pants in sizes from 28 to 42 inches waist measure. Spalding also makes knee pants of special twilled cotton goods suitable in quality, and at the same time extremely light in weight, unequaled for use in underwear or for athletic purposes. The No. 280 white, basket-weave, cotton knee pants cost 60 cents per pair, and the No. 210 white, twill, cotton knee pants, very light in quality, cost $1 per pair. These knee pants are made in sizes from 28 to 42 inches waist measure.

There are a thousand and one other articles suitable for the athlete in general, and, indeed, also by the golf player from time to time which are listed in the Spalding Catalogue. A copy of this catalogue should be in the hands of every golf player, and will be mailed free of charge to any address on request to any Spalding store, a list of which is given below:

New York City—124–128 Nassau Street and 29–33 West Forty-second Street.
Philadelphia, Pa.—1013 Filbert Street.
Boston, Mass.—73 Federal Street.

Baltimore, Md.—208 East Baltimore Street.
Washington, D. C.—709 Fourteenth Street, N. W. (Colorado Building).
Pittsburg, Pa.—439 Wood Street.
Buffalo, N. Y.—611 Main Street.
Syracuse, N. Y.—University Block.
Chicago—147–149 Wabash Avenue.
St. Louis, Mo.—710 Pine Street.
Cincinnati, Ohio.—Fountain Square, 27 East Fifth Street.
Cleveland, Ohio—741 Euclid Avenue.
Kansas City, Mo.—1111 Walnut Street.
Minneapolis, Minn.—507 Second Avenue, South.
Detroit, Mich.—254 Woodward Avenue.
New Orleans, La.—140 Carondelet Street.
Denver, Colo.—1616 Arapahoe Street.
San Francisco, Cal.—134 Geary Street.
Montreal, Canada—443 St. James Street.
London, England—53, 54, 55, Fetter Lane.

Spalding Gold Medal Drivers and Brassies



THE SPALDING GOLD MEDAL WOOD CLUBS are manufactured from the finest dogwood and persimmon, and are all guaranteed. The models are duplicates of those used by some of the best golfers in the world; the grips are of finest calfskin, or our new rubber style, roughened; and the finish is the very best; the shafts are all second growth split hickory, and particular attention is given to the spring and balance of the club.

Spalding Gold Medal Drivers and Brassies. Each, $2.50

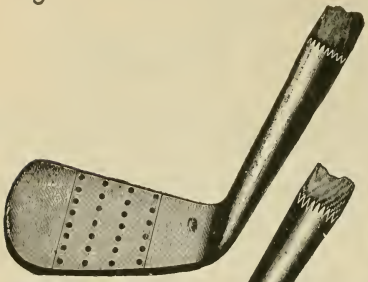
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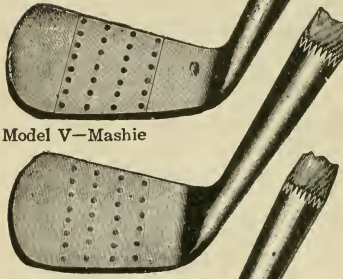
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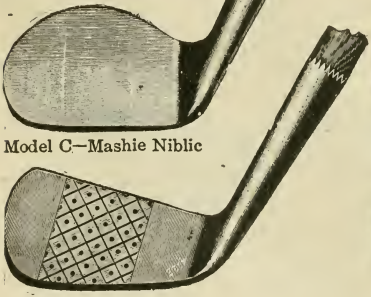
Spalding Gold Medal Irons



Model V—Mashie



Model B—Mashie



Model C—Mashie Niblic

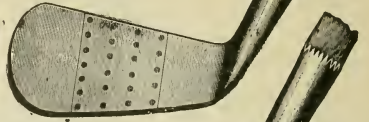
Model A—Mashie



Model C
Putting Cleek



Model R
Putting Cleek



Model V
Mashie-Iron



Model K—Driving Mashie

SPALDING GOLD MEDAL IRONS are hand hammered from the finest mild steel. We have taken the playing clubs of some of the best golfers in the world and duplicated them, and they represent our regular stock. If, however, you prefer some other model, we will copy it exactly, and the price to you will be the same. Finest calfskin or our new rubber style roughened grips on all of the above.

Each, $2.00

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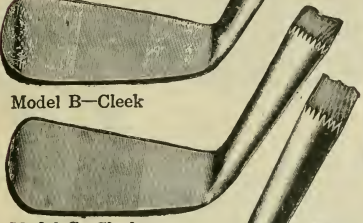
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Spalding Gold Medal Irons

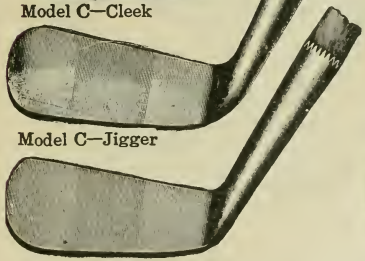


Model A—Cleek

Model B—Cleek



Model C—Cleek

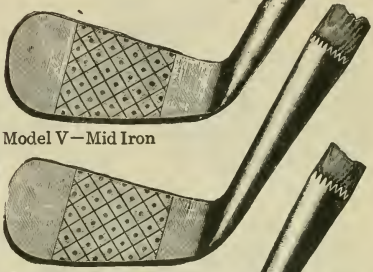


Model C—Jigger

Model V—Cleek



Model V—Mid Iron



Model A—Mid Iron



Model B—Mid Iron



Model F—Mid Iron

SPALDING GOLD MEDAL IRONS are hand hammered from the finest mild steel. We have taken the playing clubs of some of the best golfers in the world and duplicated them, and they represent our regular stock. If, however, you prefer some other model, we will copy it exactly, and the price to you will be the same. Finest calfskin, or our new rubber style roughened grips on all of the above.

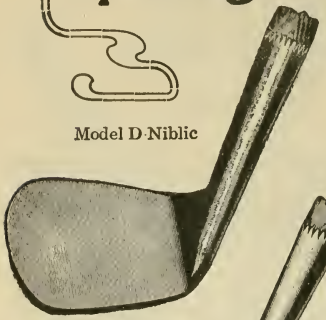
Each, $2.00

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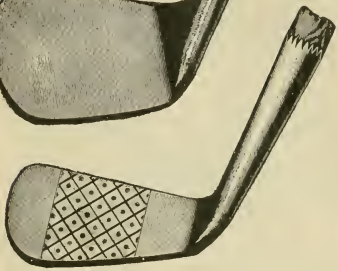
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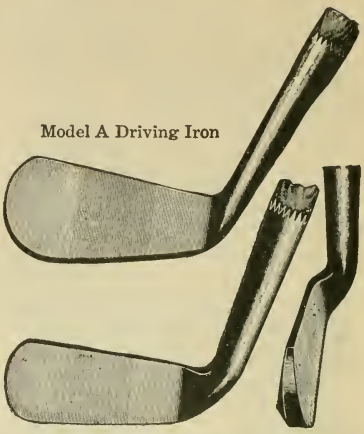
Spalding Gold Medal Irons



Model D Niblic



Model C Mashie



Model A Driving Iron

Model F Putter

Front View

SPALDING GOLD MEDAL IRONS are hand hammered from the finest mild steel. We have taken the playing clubs of some of the best golfers in the world and duplicated them, and they represent our regular stock. If, however, you prefer some other model, we will copy it exactly, and the price to you will be the same. Finest calfskin or our new rubber style roughened grips on all of the above.

Each, $2.00

JUVENILE GOLF CLUBS

Every part is of proportionate size, making perfect clubs for the use of boys and girls up to fourteen years of age.

Drivers and Brassies. . . . Each, $1.00
Cleeks, Lofters, Putters . . " 1.00

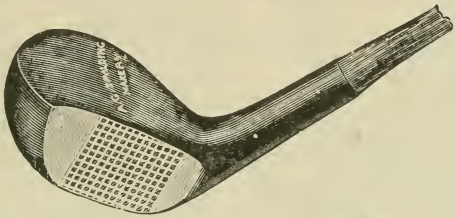
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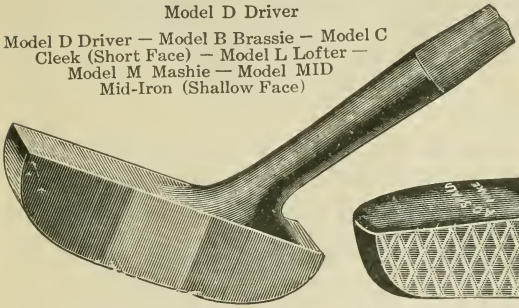
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The Spalding Aluminum Golf Clubs

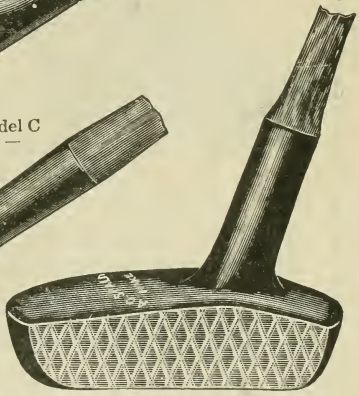


Model D Driver

Model D Driver — Model B Brassie — Model C Cleek (Short Face) — Model L Lofter — Model M Mashie — Model MID Mid-Iron (Shallow Face)



Model C Putter



Spalding "Hammer-Headed" Putter

THE merits and points of superiority of aluminum clubs have been attested by many of the most prominent players in this country. Attention is directed particularly to our "Hammer-Headed" Putter, cut of which is shown on this page.

Models D, B, L, M, C, MID. . . .	**Each, $2.00**
"Hammer-Headed" Putter. . . .	**Each, $2.50**
Model C Putter.	**Each, $2.50**

Prices subject to change without notice

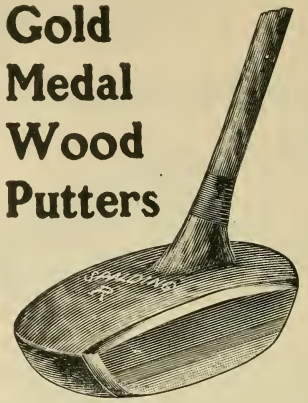
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Gold Medal Wood Putters



Models A and R

THEY are made of wood, heavily weighted with lead. Attached to face of head and covering face entirely, is a scored brass plate. The shaft is placed directly behind point of impact, the balance is perfect and the clubs certainly feel "just right." Made in two models. Best quality tan calfskin roughened grips.

Model A, Narrow Head. **Model R, Convex Sole**

Each, $2.50

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The Spalding Hollow Steel Faced Golf Club



(Patented June 8, 1897)

This style club is something that should be in the caddy bag of every golfer really interested in playing the best game possible. In construction it is scientifically correct, and the idea is one that needs only to be explained in order to meet with general approval. We rivet a piece of one-sixteenth inch highly tempered steel on a hollow head, and in that way give you spring and resistance combined at the point where they are required. The set consists of Cleek, Lofting Mashie, Mid-Iron and Putter.

Furnished with Finest Sheepskin Roughened Grips and Best Quality throughout.

Each, **$2.50**

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Crescent Clubs

Socket Drivers and Brassies



Brassie

Driver

The heads are made of the best selected dogwood and persimmon; the shafts of second growth hickory, well seasoned. An entirely hand-made club.

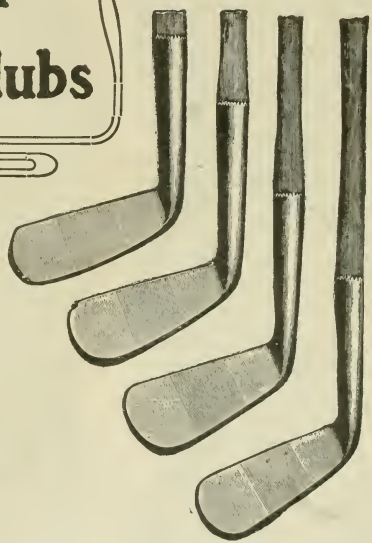
All the Latest Models. Each, **$1.50**

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Crescent Iron Golf Clubs



The heads are all forged from the finest mild steel; the shafts of well-selected second growth hickory, thoroughly seasoned. They are perfect as to shape, lie and weight, and well finished. Made in rights or lefts, and for men or women. In Cleeks, Mashies, Niblics, Mid-Irons, Driving Irons, Lofters, Putters, and other popular models.

CRESCENT IRON GOLF CLUBS. Each, **$1.50**

Prices subject to change without notice

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.

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Spalding Red, White and Blue Dot (REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.) Golf Balls

We present a new ball this season, more with the idea of still further advancing our reputation in this line rather than with any hope of great pecuniary gain, for it represents an initial expense that is very considerable, and, in carrying out our promise to furnish the best ball possible to produce, we have had to purchase at a great expense the absolute control of the most expensive material ever used in a golf ball, and we will be compelled to retain at our factory the expert ball makers whose skill has made the Spalding Glory Ball possible. We present it, however, with the single purpose of pleasing the golfing public.

Spalding Glory Golf Ball

(Red, White and Blue Dot) Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

A ball that does really lead all others in every quality that goes towards the making of a perfect ball.

Per dozen, **$9.00**

Spalding White Golf Ball

(Red Dot) Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

Cover made of purified white gutta. Particularly durable and without doubt the most widely-played ball ever made. Known and praised wherever the game of golf is played.

Per dozen, **$6.00**

Spalding Wizard Golf Ball

(Blue Dot) Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

Cover made of best quality gutta. We claim this ball is even better than the well-known 1903 Wizard, which was acknowledged the greatest advance up to that time in the manufacture of golf balls. Per dozen, **$6.00**

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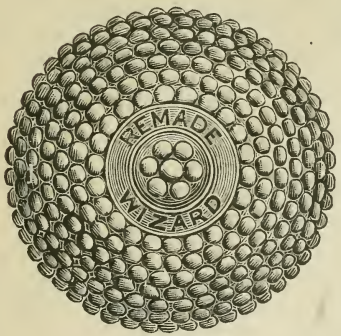
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Remade Golf Balls



Remade White



Remade Wizard

RUBBER CORED

These balls are recovered, not merely remolded, and fresh elastic is added to take the place of the small quantity immediately under the cover which deteriorates during its life as a new ball.

Spalding "White" Remade Golf Balls

Per dozen, **$4.00**

Spalding "Wizard" Remade Golf Balls

Per dozen, **$4.00**

Remaking where old balls are furnished. Per dozen, **$2.50**

No Remade Rubber Cored Golf Balls accepted for Remaking.

Remade Solid Gutta Percha Balls

Per dozen, **$2.50**

Any standard grade Solid Gutta Balls will be remade where old balls are furnished. Per dozen, **$1.00**

Prices subject to change without notice

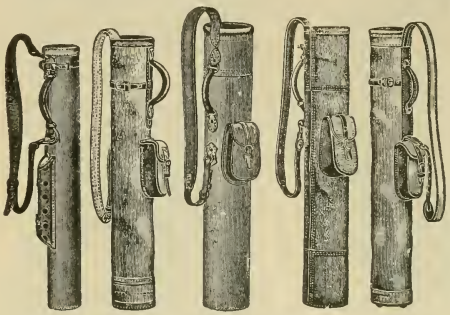
A. G. SPALDING & BROS.

Send for Complete Catalogue of all Athletic Sports.

Stores in all large cities. See inside cover page of this book.

Spalding Caddy Bags

We use in our canvas bags the heaviest and best grade of duck suitable for the purpose. In our leather bags we use solid leather and not thin strips glued together. All our handles are made to conform to a man's grip and are guaranteed not to break at the bend. All the bottoms are studded and double sewn on our own patented machines. Stiff leather bags are put up in individual pasteboard boxes.



No. L 6 *No. PG* *No. L 5* *No. L 4* *No. L 3½*

All-Leather Caddy Bags

No. **L3½.** Grain leather bag, good quality, brass trimmings and leather bottom. Each, **$5.00**

No. **L6.** Small stiff tan leather bag, snap sling and brass trimmings throughout. Long ball pocket opening top and bottom. **$5.00**

No. **L4.** Imported foot ball leather bag, brass trimmings, leather bottom. This is one of the most durable bags made. Each, **$6.00**

No. **PG.** Genuine pigskin bag, heavy brass harness buckle on shoulder strap, brass studs and trimmings, leather bottom. Each, **$10.00**

No. **L5.** Stiff leather, best quality bag, ball pocket and sling to match, brass trimmings, leather bottom. . . . Each, **$6.00**

No. **L5H.** Same style as our No. L5, but with lock and removable hood for covering clubs while traveling. This caddy bag will be accepted by railroads as baggage. . . . Each, **$9.00**

Styles for Women

No. **WL3.** Fine bridle leather, ball pocket and sling, brass trimmings; an exceedingly fine looking and serviceable bag. Each, **$5.00**

No. **WL3½.** Grain leather bag, good quality, brass trimmings and leather bottom. Each, **$5.00**

Prices subject to change without notice

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Spalding Caddy Bags

Canvas Bags

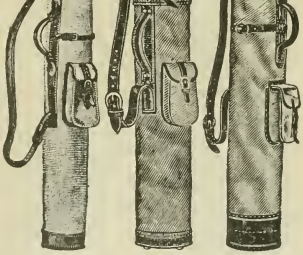
No. **E.** Extra heavy brown canvas bag, with hood, leather trimmings, leather top and bottom and extra large ball pocket. This bag measures 7¼ inches in diameter, and has a removable hood, and when fastened with the encircling strap with the patent buckle lock will be accepted by railroads as baggage. Each, **$6.00**

No. **WB.** White duck bag, two sizes, 7 inches and 8 inches diameter, extra heavy solid leather shoulder strap with patent buckle lock and leather trimmings; reinforced heavy leather bottom; waterproof hood to fasten with strap and staples inside over clubs. Each, **$7.00**

No. **WBR.** Made with heavy leather reinforcing strips running lengthwise, otherwise similar to No. WB. Each, **$8.00**

No. **B.** Like No. WB, but made of brown canvas. **$7.00**

No. **BR.** Made with heavy leather reinforcing strips running lengthwise. Otherwise similar to No. B. Each, **$8.00**



No. CXL *No. E* *No. WB*

No. **A2.** Heavy tan canvas bag, 6 inches diameter, leather trimmings, leather reinforced strips running lengthwise; sole leather bottom, ball pocket and ring. Each, **$4.00**

No. **CX.** Light tan colored canvas, leather bottom, large ball pocket; sling to match. Each, **$2.50**

No. **CXL.** Same style as No. CX, excepting that it is made larger throughout; studs on bottom. Each, **$3.00**

No. **C3.** Heavy brown canvas, leather trimmings; reinforced canvas bottom, ball pocket and sling to match. Each, **$1.75**

No. **C2.** Brown canvas, leather trimmings, canvas covered wood bottom; ball pocket and sling. Each, **$1.00**

For Children

No. **10.** Brown canvas, leather trimmings, ball pocket and sling, canvas covered wood bottom. Each, **$1.00**

Prices subject to change without notice

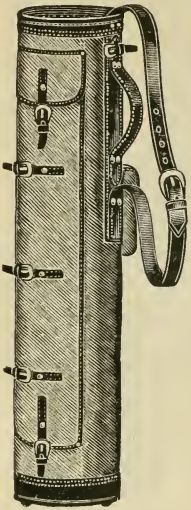
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Winslow Patent Caddy Bags

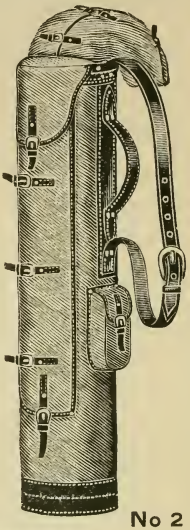
PATENTED



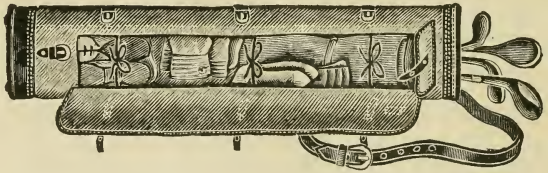
No. 1

There is hardly a golf player who has not sighed for a bag so constructed that it would contain within itself the attributes of a perfect caddy bag and at the same time the all-around usefulness of a suit case or traveling bag.

No. 1. Made of extra heavy brown canvas, leather bottom with studs, leather trimmings and extra large ball pocket. Heavy brass harness buckle on shoulder strap and small brass buckles on pocket fastenings. Pocket opens from outside and is large enough to hold extra shoes, sweater or shirt and other necessary equipmenit. Furnished with additional straps for fastening clubs inside. **$8.00**



No 2



Showing Interior Arrangement of Bag.

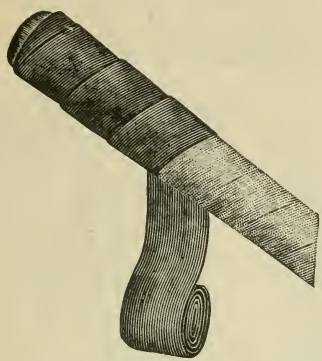
No. 2. Made of same material as No. 1, but constructed with division down center of bag inside, so that compartment for clothing does not interfere with clubs in other section of bag. Furnished also with waterproof hood, equipped with straps and buckles, so that clubs can be covered up and protected from rain or dampness. **$9.00**

We believe the desired result has been attained in the Winslow Caddy Bags described above, both of which are protected by patents.

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Seccomb Grip Winder

Grip made of rubber fabric. Can be put over regular grip. The roughened surface makes an ideal grip for all kinds of weather.

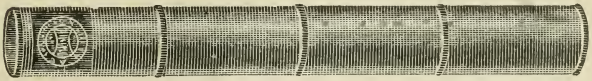
No. **S.** Per grip, **15c.**

Sure Grip

A preparation that will not soil the hands and insures a firm grip at all times. . Per box, **25c.**



Rubber Grips



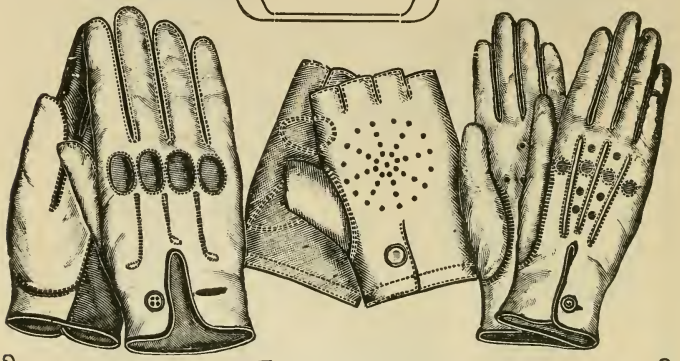
No. **6.** Corrugated Grip, made of purest Para rubber. Will fit any golf club, and insures a firm and perfect grip. Highly commended by expert golfers. . **50c.**

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GOLFING GLOVES



No. **G1.** Best quality soft white Chamois, open knuckles, perforated back and palm. A very superior glove. Per pair, **$2.25**

No. **G2.** Fine soft tanned Chamois, open knuckles, perforated back and palm. . . . Per pair, **$1.75**

No. **G2L.** Same quality as No. G2, but for left hand only, with reinforced leather palm. . . Each, **$1.00**

No. **G3.** Fingerless Glove, palms reinforced, perforated backs. Per pair, **$1.00**

No. **G4.** Fingerless Glove, for left hand only. Each, **.50**

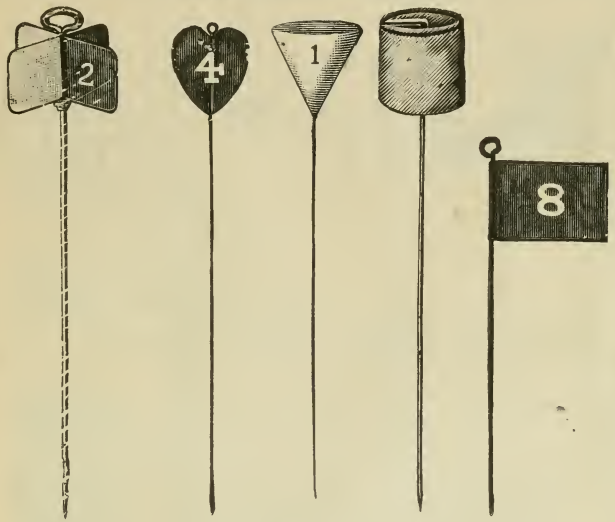
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MARKING DISCS



No. 6 No. 3 No. 5 No. 7 No. 4

Made of heavy tin, painted red and white and numbered 1 to 18, to designate the number of hole. The iron shaft is strongly fastened to disc and about four feet long.

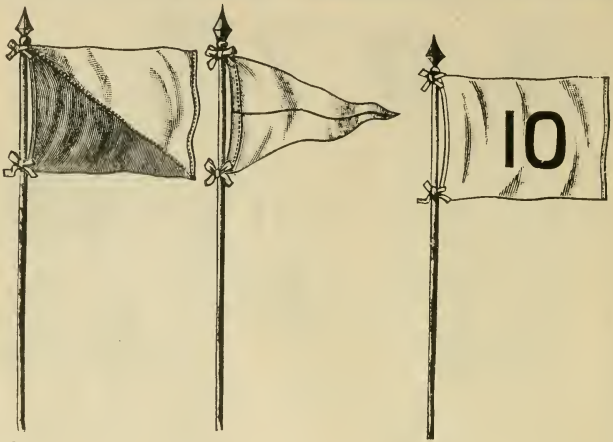
No. **3.**	Heart shape.	Each,	$.60
No. **4.**	Oblong shape. . . .	"	.60
No. **5.**	Pear shape, hollow. .	"	1.50
No. **6.**	Windmill, four flanges.	"	1.00
No. **7.**	Circular, complete with red flag.	"	1.00

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DIRECTION AND MARKING FLAGS



No. 9 **No. 11** **No. 2**

Colors: Red, White, Red and White, Blue and White, or any other combination of colors.

No. **9.** Flags only, oblong shape. Each, **40c.**

No. **11.** Flags only, triangle shape. " **40c.**

MARKING FLAGS

Red out, numbered 1 to 9. White in, numbered 10 to 18.

No. **2.** Flags only, numbered as ordered. Each, **50c.**

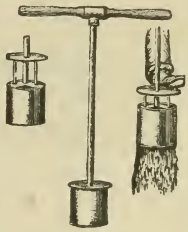
No. **5.** Spear head-staffs, 7 feet. " **50c.**

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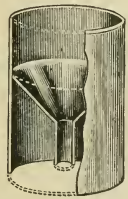
Steel Hole Cutters



For cutting the hole in center of putting green. The earth is ejected when withdrawn from hole, as shown in cut. Simple and efficient and made of best quality steel.

No. **10.** Steel Hole Cutter.
Each, **$3.00**

The Midlothian Golf Hole Rim (Patented)



The best hole rim ever made, solid iron casting, one piece. Pronounced by experts the finest rim on the marked. It is solid enough to prevent the hole from being racked by the weight of the hole disc or flag, which is kept always in an upright position by the neck below the cup.

No. **25.** Golf Hole Rim. . Each, **$1.00**

Metal Badges

For Caddies



Each badge numbered and safety pin on back to fasten to cap or breast.

No. **1.** . . Each, **35c.**

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Griffith Bros. & Co.
London

Glossy Golf Paint

A. G. Spalding & Bros., Sole Agents for United States



Used exclusively on the best golf balls by the leading makers in the United States and Great Britain.

No. **11.** Per can, **50c.**

Golf White

No. **8.**

Per bottle, **15c.**



Dries instantly.

—NON—

Will not chip, crack or wear off.

—NON—

Furnished in White or Red.

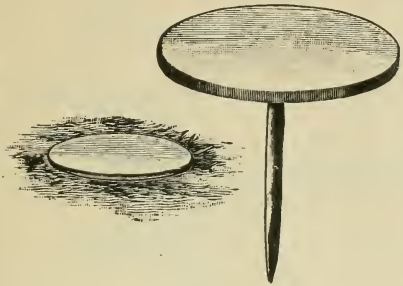
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TEEING PLATES



ROUND shape, made to lie flush with the ground and used to mark the space within the limits of which the ball must be teed.

No. **8.** Pair, **50c.**

PUTTING DISC



The object in using this disc is to train the eye in putting. Exceedingly useful for indoor practice.

No. **1.** Putting Disc. Each, **25c.**

IRON HOLE RIMS



For lining holes in putting green. The cross-piece prevents ball from falling to bottom of hole.

No. **20.** With cross-piece. Each, **40c.**

WAY'S GOLF STUDS



Made of highly tempered steel. Screwed to sole and heel. Will always insure firm footing.

No. **11.** Stud with screw. Each, **10c.**

No. **11S.** Set of 12, complete. . . . " **75c.**



HOB NAILS

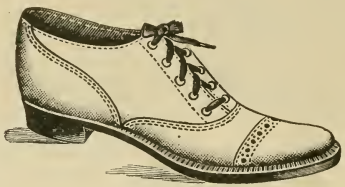
No. **MK.** Iron Hob Nails. . Dozen, **10c.**

No. **A.** Aluminum Hob Nails. **15c.**

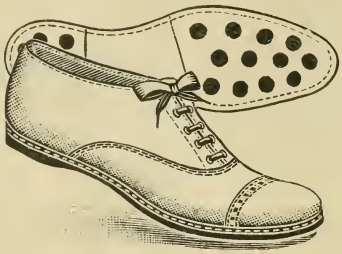
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No. 6



No. 9

Spalding Fine Hand Made Golf Shoes

No. **6.** Fine English tan leather, Golf Oxford or low cut Golf Shoe, made up same as the Balmoral No. 8 Shoe. **$6.00**

No. **9.** Low cut russet leather, waterproof, with best red rubber suction sole. Per pair, **$5.00**

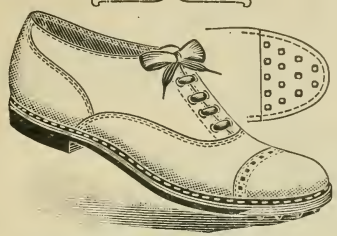
No. **A.**	Aluminum Hob Nails. . .	Dozen,	**.15**
No. **MK.**	Iron Hob Nails. . . .	"	**.10**
Rubber Discs.		Each,	**.05**

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No. 88



No. 8

Spalding Fine Hand Made Golf Shoes

No. **88.** Fine Russia calf Golf Oxford, hand made throughout. Spliced rubber sole (new idea), full heel and studded leather toe. The most up-to-date and best golf shoe made.

Per pair, **$8.00**

No. **8.** Fine English tan leather Golf Balmoral, new shape, flat sole last, box toe. Sole made heavy enough to attach hob nails or rubber discs.

Per pair, **$7.00**

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Spalding

Vest Shape Jacket Sweaters



No. VG

SPECIAL NOTICE

WE will furnish any of our regular jacket sweaters with body and sleeves of one color and a different color cuffs and edging, but only in stock colors, at no extra charge.

No. **VG.** Best quality worsted, heavy weight, pearl buttons. Made up in gray or white only. Each, **$6.00**

No. **CJ.** Fine worsted, standard weight, pearl buttons. Made up in gray or white only. Each, **$5.00**

No. **3J.** Standard weight, shaker knit, pearl buttons. Made up in gray or white only. Each, **$4.50**

Prices subject to change without notice

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Spalding

Vest Collar Golf Sweaters



No. BG.

No. **BG.** Gray or white only with extreme open or low neck. A popular golfing sweater, good weight. Made of finest lambs' wool. Ribbed at bottom of skirt and cuffs. **$5.00**

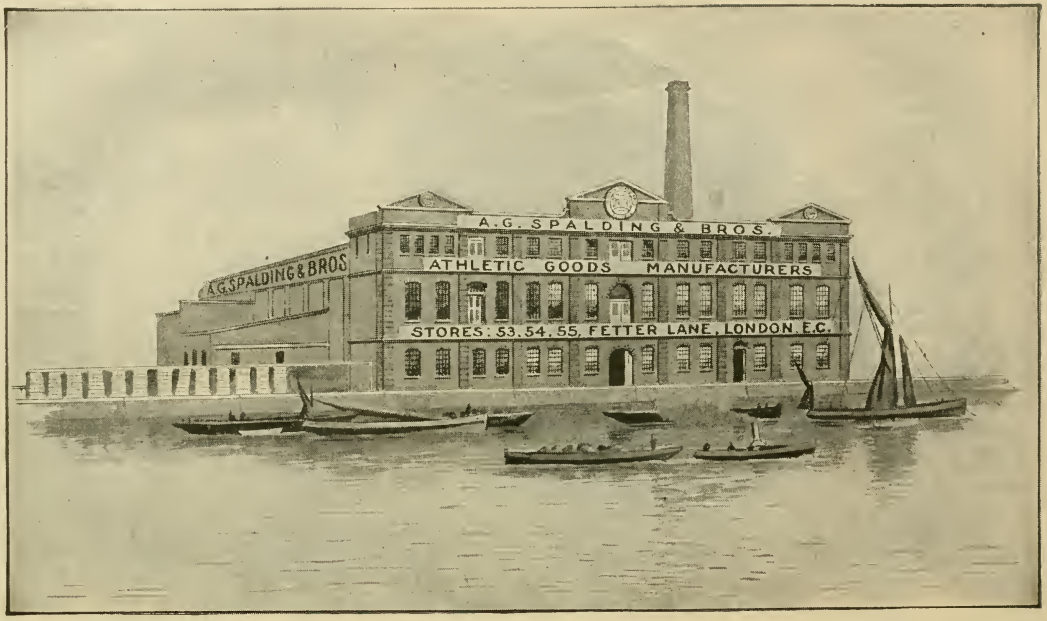
No. **CG.** Standard weight, "Highest Quality" knit. Made in gray or white only. **$4.50**

No. **3G.** Standard weight, Shaker knit. Made in gray or white only. . . Each, **$4.00**

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SPALDING FACTORY AT PUTNEY WHARF, LONDON, ENGLAND.

Durand-Steel Lockers

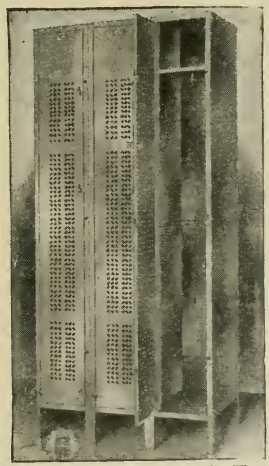
WOODEN LOCKERS are objectionable because they attract vermin, absorb odors, can be easily broken into, and are dangerous on account of fire. Lockers made from wire mesh or expanded metal afford little security, as they can be easily entered with wire cutters. Clothes placed in them become covered with dust and the lockers themselves present a poor appearance, resembling animal cages.



Six Lockers in Double Tier

Durand-Steel Lockers are made of high-grade steel plates, and are finished with gloss-black Furnace baked Japan (400°), comparable to that used on hospital ware, which will never flake off nor require refinishing, as do paints and enamels.

Durand-Steel Lockers are usually built with doors perforated full length in panel design, with sides and backs solid. This prevents clothes in one locker from coming in contact with wet garments in adjoining lockers, while plenty of ventilation is secured by having the door perforated its entire length, but if the purchaser prefers we perforate the backs also.



Three Lockers in Single Tier

The cost of Durand-Steel Lockers is no more than that of first-class wooden lockers, and they last as long as the building, are sanitary, secure, and in addition, are fireproof.

We are handling lockers as a special contract business, and shipment will in every case be made direct from the factory in Chicago. If you will let us know the number of lockers, size, and arrangement, we shall be glad to take up through correspondence the matter of prices

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JUL 3 1907

Who are A. G. Spalding & Bros.?

Albert G. and J. Walter Spalding commenced business March 1st, 1876, at Chicago, under the firm name A. G. Spalding & Bro., with a capital of $800. Two years later their brother-in-law, William T. Brown, came into the business, and the firm name was then changed to A. G. Spalding & Bros.

The business was founded on the Athletic reputation of Mr. A. G. Spalding, who acquired a national prominence in the realm of Sport, as Captain and Pitcher of the Forest City's of Rockford, Ill. (1865-70), the original Boston Base Ball Club (Champions of the United States, 1871-75), and the Chicago Ball Club (1876-77), first Champions of the National League. He was also one of the original organizers, and for many years a director, of the National League of America, the premier Base Ball organization of the world. Mr. Spalding has taken an important part in Base Ball affairs ever since it became the National Game of the United States at the close of the Civil War in 1865. The returning veterans of that War, who had played the game as a camp diversion, disseminated this new American field sport throughout the country, and thus gave it its national character.

Base Ball Goods were the only articles of merchandise carried the first year, the total sales amounting to $11,000. Gradually implements and accessories of Athletic Sports were added, until the firm now manufacture the requisites for all kinds of Athletic Sports. Originally the firm contracted for their supplies from outside manufacturers, but finding it impossible, by this method, to keep the standard of quality up to their high ideals, they gradually commenced the manufacture of their own goods, and by the acquisition from time to time of various established factories located in different parts of the country, are now able to, and do manufacture in their own factories everything bearing the Spalding Trade-Mark, which stands the world over as a guarantee of the highest quality.

There are over three thousand persons employed in various capacities in A. G. Spalding & Bros.' factories and stores located in all the leading cities of the United States, Canada and England. A capital of over $4,000,000 is employed in carrying on this business, and the annual sales exceed the total combined annual sales of all other manufacturers in the world making a similar line of goods.

A. G. Spalding & Bros. have always taken a leading part in the introduction, encouragement and support of all new Sports and Games, and the prominence attained by Athletic Sports in the United States is in a very great measure due to the energy, enterprise and liberality of this progressive concern. They were the pioneers, and in fact the founders, of the Athletic Goods Trade in America, and are now universally recognized as the undisputed Leaders in the Athletic Goods line throughout the world.

The late Marshall Field of Chicago, America's greatest Merchant, speaking of the business of A. G. Spalding & Bros., said: "I am familiar with its early career, growth and development, and when I compare its unpromising outlook and the special field for its operations that existed at its inception in 1876, with its present magnitude, I consider it one of the most remarkable mercantile successes of the world."

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